

# IMU-838: A Safe and Potent Inhibitor Of DHODH for the Treatment of Autoimmune Disease: Mechanism of Action and Clinical Outcomes

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### Immunic Therapeutics

# **Company Introduction**

## **Our Mission**



We are developing a pipeline of nextgeneration selective oral therapies focused on offering patients with chronic inflammatory and autoimmune diseases new and clinically meaningful treatment options.





## **Development Pipeline**

Program	Target	Preclinical	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Key 2021/22 Milestones
		Relapsing-Remitting M	ultiple Sclerosis (RRMS	)		Phase 3 RRMS: first-patient-in expected in Q4/2021
		Progressive Multiple So	clerosis (PMS)			
IMU-838	DHODH	Ulcerative Colitis (UC)				<ul> <li>Phase 2 UC: last-patient-in expected in Q4/2021; top-line data expected in Q2/2022</li> </ul>
		Crohn's Disease (CD)				
		Primary Sclerosing Cho	langitis (PSC)			
		Psoriasis		Phase 1 healthy volunteers: unblinded SAD/MAD safety data expected in O4/2021		
IMU-935	RORγt	Castration-Resistant Pr	ostate Cancer (CRPC)			<ul> <li>Phase 1b psoriasis: initial psoriasis data expected in Q2/2022</li> </ul>
		Guillain-Barré Syndrom	e (GBS)			Phase 1 CRPC: expected to start in Q4/2021
IMU-856	Intestinal Barrier Function	Gastrointestinal Diseas	es			<ul> <li>Phase 1 healthy volunteers: unblinded SAD/MAD safety data expected in Q1/2022</li> </ul>



## IMU-838 Overview

Mode of Action Clinical Data

## Blocking DHODH Leads to a Selective Effect on Overactivated Lymphocytes Without Broader Immunosuppression



Selective targeting of hyperactivate immune cells without affecting normal immune function

No negative effect observed on:

- White blood cell count
- Rates of infection or malignancy
- Vaccination efficacy<sup>[1]</sup>

Illustration adapted from Tan et al., 2016, Mol Cell 62; [1] Bar-Or A, Freedman MS, Kremenchutzky M, et al. Neurology. 2013;81(6):552-558 DHODH: dihydroorotate dehydrogenase





## **Highly Potent Cytokine Inhibition**

- Human PBMCs were stimulated with PHA for 48h and treated with different concentrations of vidofludimus\* (Vido) or teriflunomide (TNFM)
- > Cytokine secretion of IL-17 and IFNγ was measured by ELISA



### IMU-838 Exhibits A High Potency On Cytokine Reduction

Muehler et al., 2020 \* vidofludimus is the active moiety of IMU-838



## IMU-838 Reduces Hyperactive Immune Cells - IL-17F/IFNγ High-Producers

Hyperactive/high-affinity immune cells are specifically dependent on DHODH

High metabolic turnover in high-affinity T cells

High amounts of nucleotides for mRNA synthesis (up to 100-fold higher nucleotide demand for RNA synthesis than for DNA synthesis)

High producers of IL-17 and IFN $\gamma$ 





## IMU-838 Is Highly Active on Murine High Affinity T Cells

IMU-838 selectively blocks proliferation of T cells in antigen dependent manner

CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells from OT-I (high affinity TCR) and OT-III (low affinity TCR) mice were stimulated with OVA peptide loaded splenocytes (antigen specific) in the presence or absence of 10  $\mu$ M IMU-838 and Teriflunomide (TF) for 3 days.

### Read out: proliferation

→ Strong inhibition of high affinity T cells but not low affinity T cells



Ref: Collaboration Luisa Klotz, Muenster, Gemany



## IMU-838 Promotes a Less Inflammatory Environment

Stopping a pro-inflammatory environment



 $\rightarrow$  Repression of pro-inflammatory cytokines

Induction of apoptosis in stimulated PBMCs<sup>1</sup>

10  $\mu$ M IMU-838 (Vido) induces similar % of apoptosis compared to 100  $\mu$ M teriflunomide (TNFM)

# Induction of regulatory macrophages in MLR<sup>2</sup>

Moderate induction of regulatory macrophages and strong additive effect in combo with Infliximab



Induction of CD14<sup>+</sup>CD206<sup>+</sup> macrophages (% of 6TG<sup>3</sup>) 125 100 75 50 25 0  $\frac{125}{0}$   $\frac{125}{0}$ 

1 Peripheral Blood Mononuclear Cells, 2 Mixed Lymphocyte Reaction, 3 6-thioguanin Kohlhof et al., Poster UEGW 2019; *Muehler et al., 2020* 



## No General Antiproliferative Effects by IMU-838



### IMU-838 did not induce monocyto-, neutroand leukopenia in a mouse model of SLE

 Indicating a significantly lower bone marrow toxicity compared to Cyclophosphamide



IMU-838 has a natural selectivity towards hyperactivate immune cells and exhibits no general immune suppressive features



SLE: Systemic Lupus Erythematodis Graph is adapted from Kulkarni et al., Am J Pathol. 2010 Jun;176(6):2840-7. Epub 2010 Apr 22 Muehler et al., ECTRIMS 2019, Abstract A-1026-0031-00242



## IMU-838 Demonstrated Activity in a Therapeutic RRMS Animal Model



IMU-838 demonstrates dose-dependent activity in rat EAE model



Improvement of body weight for all doses tested



Improvement of disease severity for 20 and 60 mg/kg







## **Overview IMU-838**

Mode of Action Clinical Data

## IMU-838 (Vidofludimus Calcium): Key Characteristics

### Oral small molecule



Active moiety vidofludimus MW 355 g/mol



IMU-838 is calcium salt of vidofludimus



Chemical name (IUPAC): 2-(3-Fluoro-3´-methoxybiphenyl-4-ylcarbamoyl)-cyclopent-1-enecarboxylic acid

### Small white tablet











Human t-max ~ 2-3 hours





## 14 Day Multiple Dosing of 35 mg Vidofludimus in Humans – Corresponds to 30 mg IMU-838



At 35 mg vidofludimus (~30 mg IMU-838), exposure in patients is continuously above the 90 % inhibition level (IC<sub>90</sub>) of IL-17F and IFNγ



# IMU-838 | Clinical Data

Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)

Multiple Sclerosis (MS)

# IMU-838 | Clinical Data | IBD

## ENTRANCE

CALDOSE-1

## **ENTRANCE Study: Primary Efficacy Results**

Number of Patients



### ENTRANCE Study:



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- Study performed with active moiety vidofludimus
- All patients failed two attempts to taper down steroids



Open-label, dosing of 35 mg vidofludimus QD



Primary efficacy endpoint: steroid-free/steroid-reduced remission (week 12)



Herrlinger et.al., 2011, Gastroenterology 140:588

\*Mean dose of steroid equivalent in mg per day; mITT: modified intent to treat; QD: quaque die = once-daily



# IMU-838 | Clinical Summary | IBD

ENTRANCE	CALDOSE-1

# CALDOSE-1: Clinical Phase 2 in UC Ongoing NCT03341962



Coordinating Investigator: Dr. Geert d'Haens (AMC Amsterdam)

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Active IND in the United States



Primary Endpoint: Proportion of patients with symptomatic remission and endoscopic healing at week 10



Overall Number of Patients: 240



Currently More Than 100 Active Sites in 14 Countries: USA, Western, Central and Eastern Europe



**Timelines:** 

Recruitment expected to be completed in Q4/2021

Currently estimated to deliver top-line data in Q2/2022



IND: investigational new drug

# CALDOSE-1: Phase 2 Trial Design in UC NCT03341962



R: randomization; QD: quaque die = once-daily



## CALDOSE-1: Interim Analysis Established Potentially Broad Effective Dose Range

- Performed by an unblinded data review committee (DRC) in August 2019
- Analysis based on all available clinical, endoscopic, biomarker, pharmacodynamic, and safety data



### Main Treatment Period

Doses of 10 to 45 mg may be effective in UC



- No intolerable dose identified
- No safety signal observed



The interim analysis supported that IMU-838 is a safe oral medication in patients with UC with a broad therapeutic index



# IMU-838 | Clinical Data

Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)

Multiple Sclerosis (MS)

## Phase 2 Data of IMU-838 in RRMS: Primary and Key Secondary Endpoints Met, Showing Strong Activity



### Coordinating Investigator

Robert Fox, MD (Cleveland Clinic)

### Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Randomized, Parallel-Group Phase 2 Trial

- Blinded main treatment period of 24 weeks
- Extended treatment period of up to 9.5 years to observe long-term safety
- 210 patients randomized in 36 centers across four European countries

### **Key Study Endpoints**

Cumulative number of new combined unique active (CUA) magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) lesions up to week 24

- Primary endpoint: Difference between 45 mg IMU-838 & placebo
- Key secondary endpoint: Difference between 30 mg IMU-838 & placebo

### Suppression of CUA MRI Lesions IMU-838 Versus Placebo Over 24 Weeks



CUA MRI Lesions: combined unique active magnetic resonance imaging lesions. Sum of the number of all new Gadolinium-enhancing lesions on T1-weighted MRI and the number of all new or substantially enlarged lesions on T2-weighted MRI (non-enhancing on T1-weighted MRI), avoiding double counting. Estimates are adjusted for baseline volume of T2 lesions, MRI field strength (1.5 or 3.0 Tesla), and baseline number of Gadolinium-enhancing lesions (0, >=1) using a generalized linear model with a negative binomial distribution and a logarithmic link function. Log transformation of time from first IMP dose to date of last MRI assessment is used as offset term.



## Study Met Key Secondary Endpoints: Suppression of MRI Lesions and Robust Decrease in Serum Neurofilament Light Chain

#### **Cumulative Number of Gd+ Lesions\***



Median Percentage Change from Baseline to Week 24 in Serum Neurofilament (Including 95% Confidence Intervals) (Biomarker for Axonal Damage)\*\*



Effect of IMU-838 on MRI lesion suppression can be observed already at early time points

Robust decrease in serum neurofilament light chain

\* Displayed are adjusted mean values (and 95% confidence intervals). Estimates are adjusted for MRI field strength (1.5 or 3.0 Tesla) and baseline number of Gd+ lesions (0, >=1) \*\*Quantification of neurofilament light polypeptide (NEFL) by an electrochemiluminescent immunoassay (ECLIA) in blood serum samples

#### Gd: Gadolinium



# Phase 2 Data of IMU-838 in RRMS: Positive Signals on Relapse and Unconfirmed Disability

#### Proportion of Patients With Relapse up to Week 24



### Proportion of Patients With Unconfirmed Disability Progression up to Week 24



Left: Proportion of Patients With Relapse up to Week 24. Right: EDSS (Expanded Disability Status Scale) progression is defined as an increase of the EDSS score compared to baseline of at least 1.0 point for patients with a baseline EDSS score of 0. There is no confirmation of EDSS progression in this trial due to its short duration. Patients with missing assessments at week 24 without a progression at any time are set to missing.



# IMU-838 Broad-Spectrum Antiviral Activity

Mode of Action and Antiviral Effect

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## Summary of Rationale for IMU-838 as an Antiviral Agent



**Dual mode of action:** orally available DHODH inhibitor with both, antiviral and anti-inflammatory effects

Host-based mechanism: avoids dependence on specific viral proteins and, therefore, offers broad-spectrum antiviral activity





## IMU-838: Broad-Spectrum Antiviral Activity Against Different Pathogenic Viruses



### Antiviral Activity With $EC_{50}$ Values in Single Digit $\mu M$ Range



SARS-CoV-2: Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus type 2, hCMV: Human cytomegalovirus, HCV: Hepatitis C virus, HIV: human immunodeficiency virus, BID: 'bis in die' meaning twice a day

IMU-838 has shown **broadspectrum antiviral** activity against different pathogenic viruses with EC<sub>50</sub> values well reachable with 22.5 mg BID dosing



### Antiviral vs. Immunomodulatory Treatments





# Conclusions

## Conclusions

IMU-838 is a safe and orally available small molecule inhibitor of DHODH for the treatment of various autoimmune diseases

## $\rightarrow$ DHODH inhibition targets highly metabolically activate cells

ightarrow Targeting DHODH has an additional broad-spectrum antiviral activity



## Thank You!



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