

# **Immunic Therapeutics**

Vidofludimus Calcium Designed to Combine the Best of Two Worlds: Neuroprotection and Relapse Prevention

NASDAQ: IMUX | February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025 | Hella Kohlhof, PhD

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# Vidofludimus Calcium Has the Potential to Transform the Oral Multiple Sclerosis DMT Market



Designed to Combine the Best of Two Worlds: Neuroprotection and Relapse Prevention

**First-in-class, dual mode of action** approach designed to address the **full spectrum of disease:** 

- Nurr1 activation provides direct neuroprotective effects
- DHODH inhibition is associated with anti-inflammatory effects

Oral DMT category: Achieves **best-in-class benefit / risk profile** by combining **strong efficacy** with **safety**, **tolerability**, and **once-daily** convenience

No first-dose or on-treatment monitoring makes it an easy start or switch to therapy

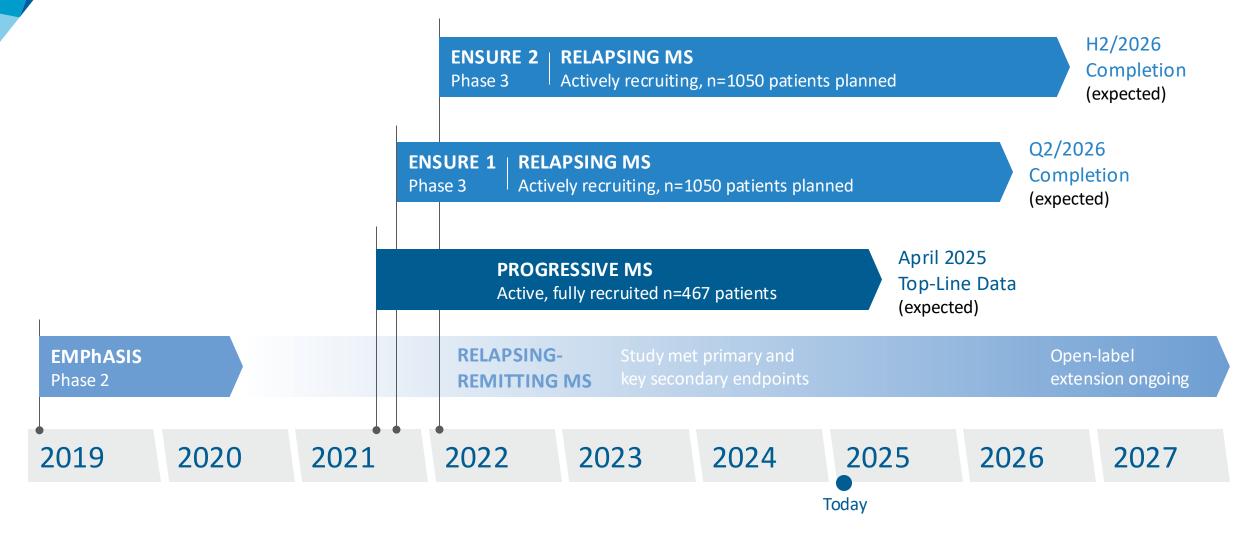
No anticipated black box warnings or serious infection risk (e.g., PML, malignancies, etc.)

### If approved, peak sales potential for vidofludimus calcium of \$2-6 billion<sup>[1]</sup>

DMT: disease-modifying therapy; Nurr1: nuclear receptor-related 1; DHODH: dihydroorotate dehydrogenase; PML: progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy [1] Based on Immunic internal market research

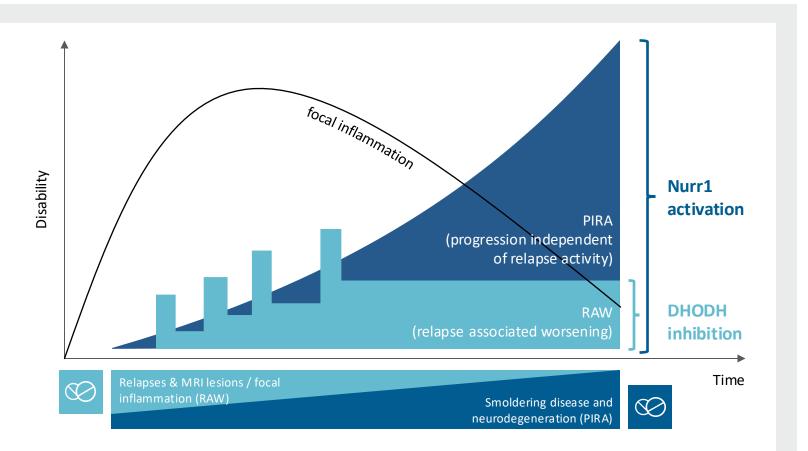


# Vidofludimus Calcium: Clinical Trials Overview in Multiple Sclerosis (MS)





# Underlying "Invisible Disability Accumulation" Contributes to Disability Progression Over Time Requiring a Dual Mode of Action Approach



Graphic adapted from Kretzschmar A., Symposium MSVirtual 2020 / 8th Joint ACTRIMS-ECTRIMS Meeting and REVIEW article, Front. Immunol., 29 November 2023, Sec. Multiple Sclerosis and Neuroimmunology, Volume 14 – 2023 [1] Scalfari A. Mult Scler. 2021 Jun; 27(7):1002-1004 / MRI: magnetic resonance imaging; Nurr1: nuclear receptor-related 1; DHODH: dihydroorotate dehydrogenase; DMT: disease modifying therapy; MS: multiple sclerosis These observations challenge the dichotomy between relapsing and progressive disease, supporting a one stage disorder model of MS, where all patients exhibit a **progressive course from the disease onset**, which can be overlapped by relapses.<sup>[1]</sup>

The ideal DMT agent will have a significant impact on relapses and focal MRI activity to reduce RAW but also halts the putative processes responsible for smoldering MS/PIRA.



Vidofludimus Calcium in Multiple Sclerosis (MS)

Development in Relapsing Multiple Sclerosis (RMS)

# EMPhASIS: Completed Phase 2 Trial in Relapsing-Remitting MS NCT03846219



### **Coordinating Investigator**

Robert J. Fox, M.D. Cleveland Clinic



Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Randomized, Parallel-Group Trial

- Blinded main treatment period of 24 weeks
- Cohort 1: 30 and 45 mg or placebo QD
- Cohort 2: 10 mg or placebo QD
- Extended treatment period of up to 9.5 years ongoing to observe long-term safety is ongoing

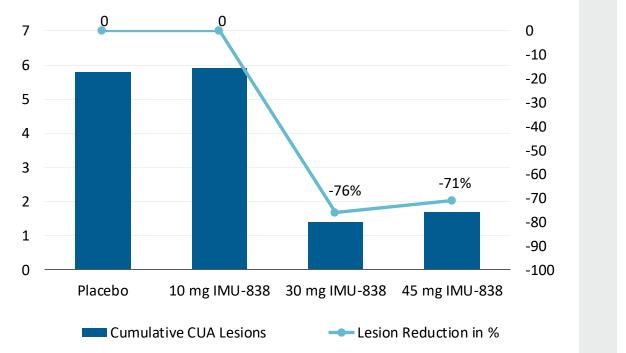


- Randomized 268 patients in 36 centers across four European countries
- Vidofludimus calcium showed strong activity in relapsingremitting MS population
  - Primary and key secondary endpoints met with high statistical significance: strong reduction of MRI lesion activity
  - Reduced serum NfL concentrations
  - Signal in preventing confirmed disability worsening
- Vidofludimus calcium's safety profile was similar to placebo
  - No general safety signals observed
  - Low discontinuation rates, considerably lower than placebo



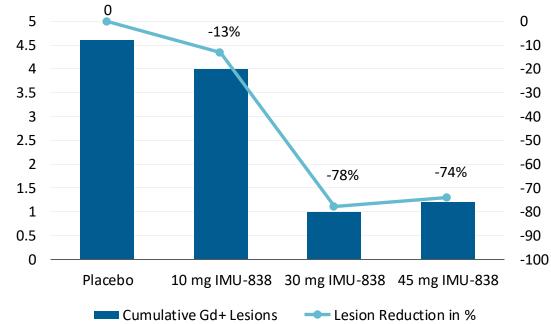
MS: multiple sclerosis; QD: quaque die = once-daily; MRI: magnetic resonance imaging; NfL: neurofilament light chain

# EMPhASIS: Strong Reduction of MRI Lesion Activity Primary Endpoint Hit With High Statistical Significance, Pooled Cohorts 1 & 2



#### Reduction in Cumulative CUA Lesions up to Week 24

Reduction in Gd+ Lesions up to Week 24



# Primary and key secondary endpoints of cumulative number of new CUA lesions up to week 24 met with high statistical significance (primary 45 mg vs. placebo: p = 0.0002 / key secondary 30 mg vs. placebo: p < 0.0001)

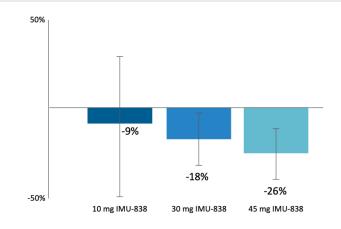
As Cohort 2 only allowed MRI machines of 1.5T, pooled data of Cohorts 1 & 2 only include patients that were evaluated at MRI field strength of 1.5 Tes a. Modified full analysis set C1/C2 (N10 = 47, N30 = 65, N45 = 66, NPBO C2 = 12) Data displayed are as adjusted mean values. Estimates are adjusted for baseline volume of T2 lesions and baseline number of G4+ lesions (0, >=1) using a generalized linear model with a negative binomial distribution and a logarithmic link function. Log transformation of time from first investigational medicinal product (IMP) dose to date of last MRI assessment with non-missing values is used as offset term / RRMS: relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis; MRI: magnetic resonance imaging; CUA: cumulative unique active, G4+: gadolinium-enhancing



# Phase 2 EMPhASIS Trial Outcomes Drove Excitement for Further Investigation of Potential Neuroprotective Properties

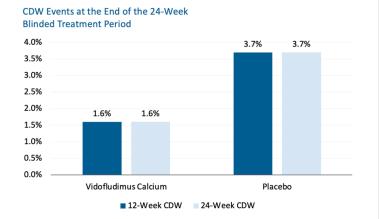
In the phase 2 EMPhASIS trial in RRMS, the following observations provided the rationale for testing vidofludimus calcium as a possible neuroprotective therapy in PMS:

Dose-dependent reduction of the biomarker serum neurofilament light chain (NfL)



EMPhASIS: vidofludimus calcium showed a remarkable reduction in NfL levels after 24 weeks in all active doses tested compared with placebo

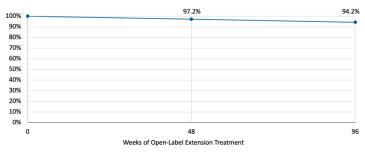
Substantial numerical reduction of confirmed disability worsening (CDW) favoring vidofludimus calcium



EMPhASIS: vidofludimus calcium showed a signal in preventing 12-week and 24-week CDW events as compared to placebo

Low rates of confirmed disability worsening events (<6% of patients) in 2-year open-label treatment





EMPhASIS: only a few patients on continuous treatment with vidofludimus calcium develop 12-week CDW events over a 2-year time frame



# ENSURE: Ongoing Pivotal Phase 3 Trials in Relapsing MS NCT05134441 & NCT05201638



### **Coordinating Investigator**

Robert J. Fox, M.D. Cleveland Clinic



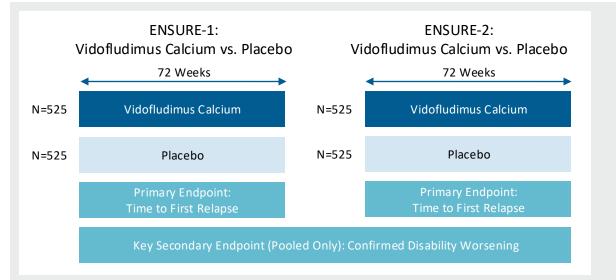
### Included Patient Population: Relapsing Forms of MS

- Adult patients aged 18 to 55 years
- Established diagnosis of MS (revised McDonald criteria 2017)
- Confirmed relapsing MS (1996 Lublin criteria<sup>[1]</sup>)
- Active disease as defined by Lublin 2014
- EDSS score at screening between 0 to 5.5

[1] Lublin FD, et al. Neurology. 2014;83(3):278-286
 MS: multiple sclerosis; EDSS: Expanded Disability Status Scale; QD: quaque die = once-daily

## Two Multicenter, Randomized, Double-Blind Phase 3 Trials

- Approximately 1,050 patients in each trial
- More than 100 sites in the United States, Latin America, Central and Eastern Europe, and India in each trial
- Randomization to 30 mg vidofludimus calcium or placebo QD
- Completion ENSURE-1 expected in Q2/2026, ENSURE-2 in H2/2026





# **ENSURE: Positive Outcome of Interim Futility Analysis**





Unblinded Independent Data Monitoring Committee (IDMC) confirmed predetermined **futility criteria have not been met** 



IDMC recommended **continuing trial without changes**, including **no need for a potential upsizing** 



Based on a pre-specified assessment after approximately half of the planned first relapse events occurred in the double-blind treatment periods



Based on a conditional power analysis by an unblinded IDMC



Immunic has remained blinded and has not seen any of the data available to the IDMC to make their recommendations



Vidofludimus Calcium in Multiple Sclerosis (MS)

First-in-Class, Potent Nurr1 Activator and Selective DHODH Inhibitor

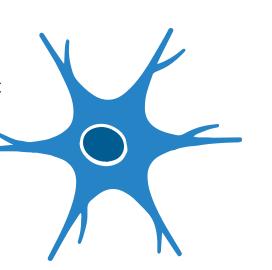
# Vidofludimus Calcium Addresses Smoldering Neurodegeneration



First-in-Class Nurr1 Activator, Targeting Improvement of Physical and Mental Ability of Multiple Sclerosis Patients

## Nurr1 Activator

- Direct and indirect neuroprotective effects
- Involved in protecting relevant neurons from cell death
- Known effects reducing activation of microglia and astrocytes
- Effect independent from focal inflammation

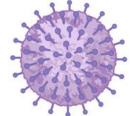


## **DHODH** Inhibitor

- Selectively targets hyperactive immune cells
- Selective anti-inflammatory effects, reducing focal inflammation, magnetic resonance imaging lesions and relapses
- Broad-spectrum antiviral effects prevent reactivation of EBV and could stop cross reactive immune responses



Blocking of Th17/Th1 cytokines





Nurr1: nuclear receptor-related 1; DHODH: dihydroorotate dehydrogenase; EBV: Epstein-Barr virus

# Role of Nurr1 in MS: Nurr1 is Downregulated in MS Patients

Nurr1 Is a Nuclear Receptor Involved in Neuroprotection





Nurr1 activation delays the onset of the MS and counteracts inflammation in EAE animal models of MS.<sup>[1]</sup>



In untreated patients with relapsing-remitting MS, Nurr1 was significantly downregulated compared to healthy controls.<sup>[2]</sup>



Nurr1 gene expression level negatively correlates with the aggressiveness of the pathology and clinical parameters of MS, e.g., relapse rate and EDSS, in which more aggressive forms of the disease were characterized by lower levels of the Nurr1 transcript.<sup>[3]</sup>

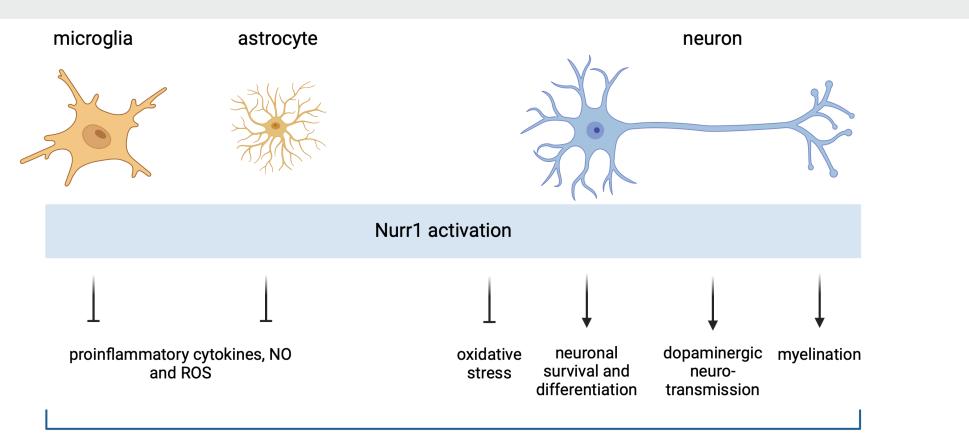


In brain tissue from people with progressive MS, higher levels of Nurr1 are associated with less nerve loss.<sup>[4]</sup>

[1] Montarolo et al., Inflamm. Res. 2015, 64, 841–844 [2] Gilli et al., PLoS ONE 2010, 5, e8692 [3] Gilli et al., Arch. Neurol. 2011, 68, 1–10 [4] Pansieri et al., Brain Commun. 2023 Mar 17;5(2):fcad072 / MS: multiple sclerosis; Nurr1: nuclear receptor-related 1; EAE: experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis; EDSS: Expanded Disability Status Scale



# Nurr1 Is a Nuclear Receptor Involved in Neuroprotection

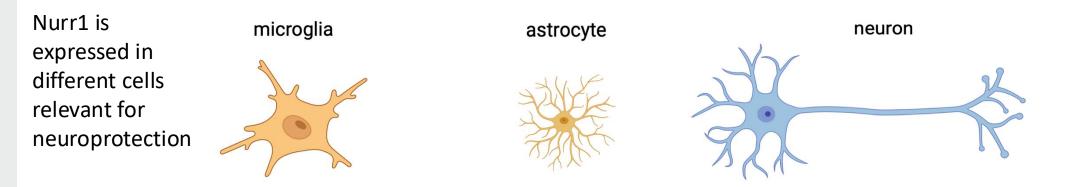


Nurr1 activation is believed to be involved in halting neurodegeneration and disability progression

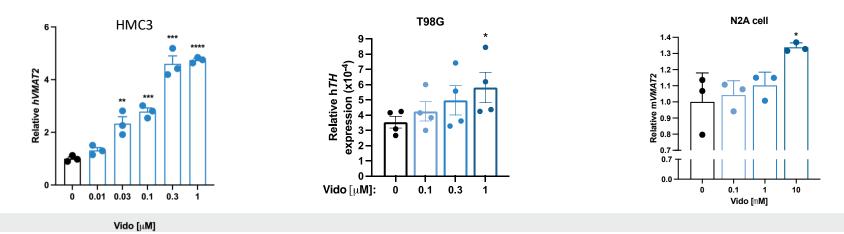
Vietor et al., Journal of Medicinal Chemistry 2023 66 (9), 6391-6402; Schiro et al., 2022, Frontiers in Neurology, adapted from Willems S, Merk D. J Med Chem. 2022;65(14):9548-9563; illustrations created in BioRender.com Nurr1: nuclear receptor-related 1; NO: nitric oxide; ROS: reactive oxygen species



# Nurr1 Is a Nuclear Receptor Involved in Neuroprotection



Nurr1 activation by vidofludimus calcium leads to induction of primary target genes in these cells

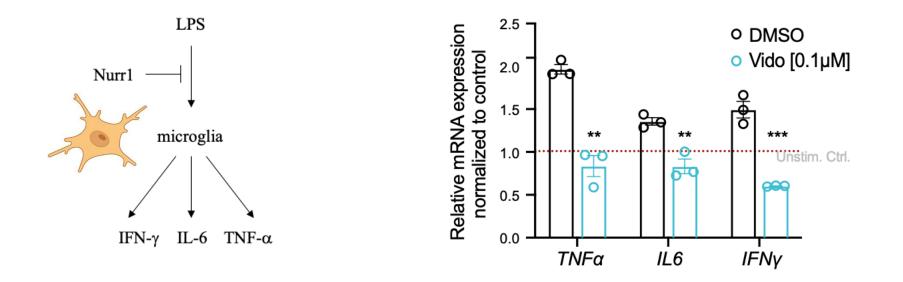


Unpublished gene expression data from Sun Lab, CoH, USA and Merk Lab, LMU, Germany; illustrations created in BioRender.com Nurr1: nuclear receptor-related 1; NO: nitric oxide; ROS: reactive oxygen species



# Vidofludimus Calcium Reduces Microglia Activation

 Nurr1 can prevent antigen-induced activation of microglia and subsequent production of pro-inflammatory cytokines in the brain. In our experiment, vidofludimus calcium (#1260) attenuated LPS-stimulated IL-6, TNFα and IFNγ production in human HMC3 microglial cells at low doses of 100 nM.





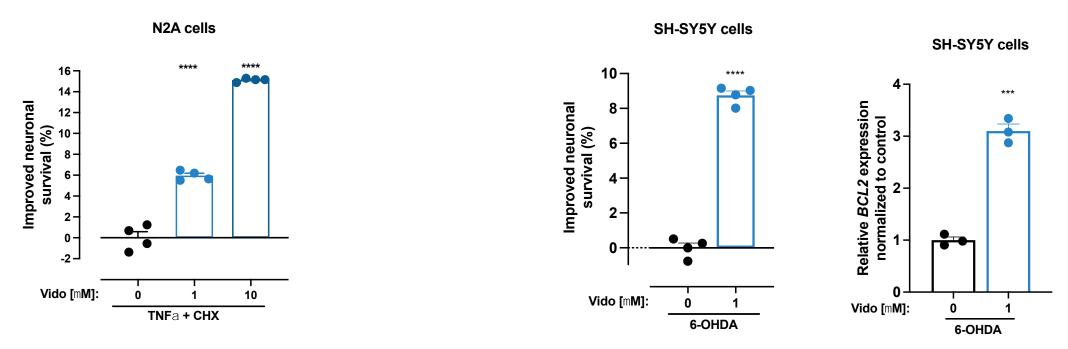
Unpublished data: Sun lab, City of Hope, Duarte; 2023; illustration created in BioRender.com

# Vidofludimus Calcium Improves Neuronal Survival



Protective Effects Already Present at 1  $\mu$ M Concentrations in Human and Murine Cell Systems

 Vidofludimus calcium dose dependently improves survival of murine neuronal cells after apoptosis induction by TNFα+CHX  Vidofludimus calcium improves neuronal survival after apoptosis induction by the neurotoxic agent 6-OHDA via up-regulation of pro-survival gene BCL2



Vidofludimus calcium prevents/ameliorates apoptosis induction in neuronal cells via Nurr1 activation

Unpublished data: Sun lab, City of Hope, Duarte; 2023

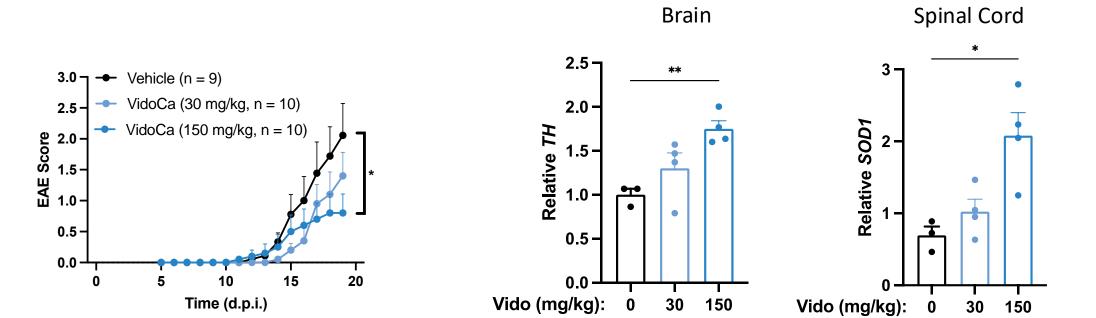


# High Dose of Vidofludimus Calcium Demonstrated Activity in Murine EAE Model 1/2

Dose dependent reduction of clinical score in EAE mouse model

Primary Nurr1 target genes are regulated in brain and spinal cord

- TH brain Tyrosine Hydroxylase
- SOD spinal cord protects against ROS



Mouse EAE model performed at City of Hope, 2024



# Vidofludimus Calcium Induces Nurr1 Effects In Vivo, EAE Model 2/2

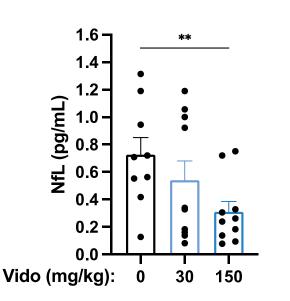
Brain-derived neurotrophic factor (**BDNF**) plays an important role in neuronal survival and growth and is is a direct target of Nurr1

Vidofludimus calcium induces mature BDNF secretion in plasma of treated animals

12 10 10 10 8 4 4 2 0 Vido (mg/kg): 0 30 150

Sun Lab, City of Hope, Duarte; unpublished data

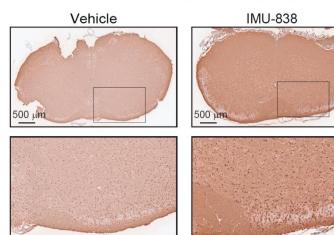
Neurofilament light chain (**NfL**) is a neuronal protein associated with neurodegeneration and neuroaxonal damage. Inline with the activity in clinical score and gene regulation, we see a significant reduction of NfL plasma levels in treated mice

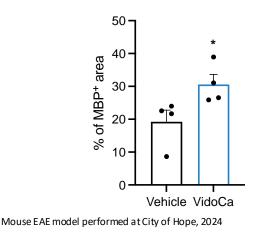


# Activity of Vidofludimus Calcium in Murine EAE Model is Supported by Histological Improvement in Spinal Cord

Improving myelination status

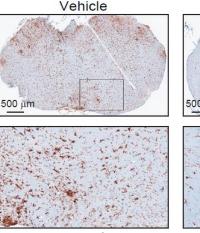
Spinal cord, MBP staining (MBP: a structure protein of myelin)

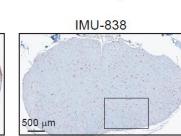




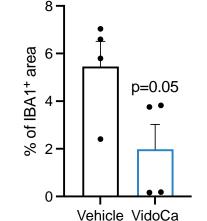
Reducing microglia activation

Spinal cord, IBA1 staining (IBA1: microglia activation marker)







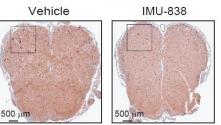


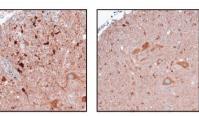


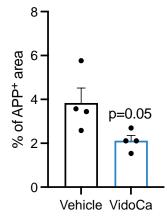


Reducing axonal injury

Spinal cord, APP staining (APP: axonal injury marker)





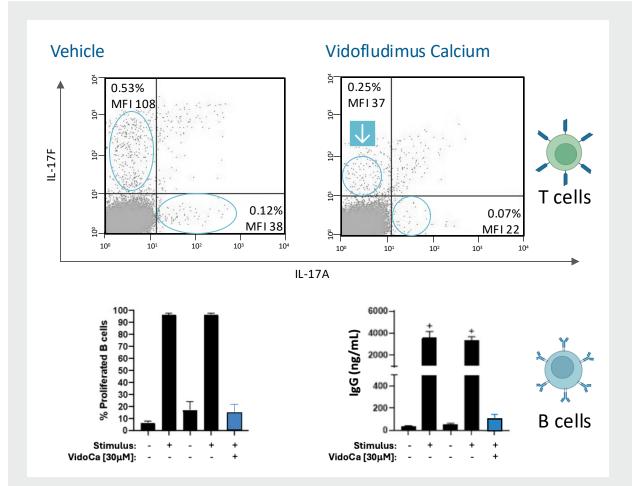




# Vidofludimus Calcium Specifically Targets Highly Metabolically Activated Immune Cells – Acting on Focal Inflammation in MS

## Hyperactive/High-Affinity Immune Cells are Specifically Dependent on **DHODH**

- High metabolic turnover in high-affinity/strongly activated immune cells
- High amounts of nucleotides for mRNA synthesis (up to 100-fold higher nucleotide demand for RNA synthesis than for DNA synthesis)
- T cells: Reduction of high producers of IL-17A & F
- B cells: Reduction of strongly activated B cells
  - Proliferation
  - Production of IgG



Klotz et al., Science Translational Medicine, 11, Mai 2019; Muehler et al., Multiple Sclerosis and Related Disorders 43 (2020) 102; Unpublished data Immunic (B cells activation with CpG-ODN+sCD40L+anti-IL21)



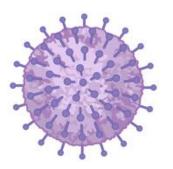
# Vidofludimus Calcium: DHODH Inhibition Provides Broad-Spectrum Antiviral Activity Against Different Pathogenic Viruses



Inhibits Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV) Replication and Reactivation

By targeting the host cell metabolism, vidofludimus calcium has shown to be active against different RNA and DNA viruses *in vitro* 

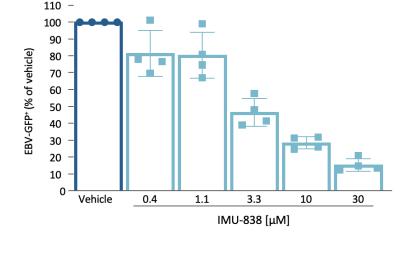
- Shows antiviral activity with EC<sub>50</sub> values in single digit µM range
- Including strong anti-EBV activity





Showed Dose-Dependent Inhibition of EBV Reactivation

Anti-Akata-BX1-EBV-GFP stimulated with hIgG

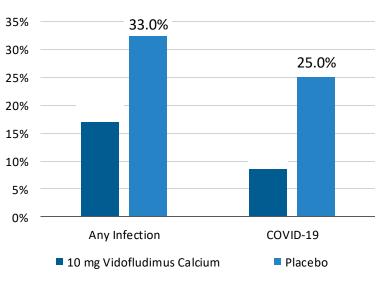




Decreased Number of Opportunistic SARS-CoV-2 Infections

Vidofludimus calcium showed interesting hints for clinical anti-SARS-CoV-2 activity in the phase 2 EMPhASIS trial in RRMS

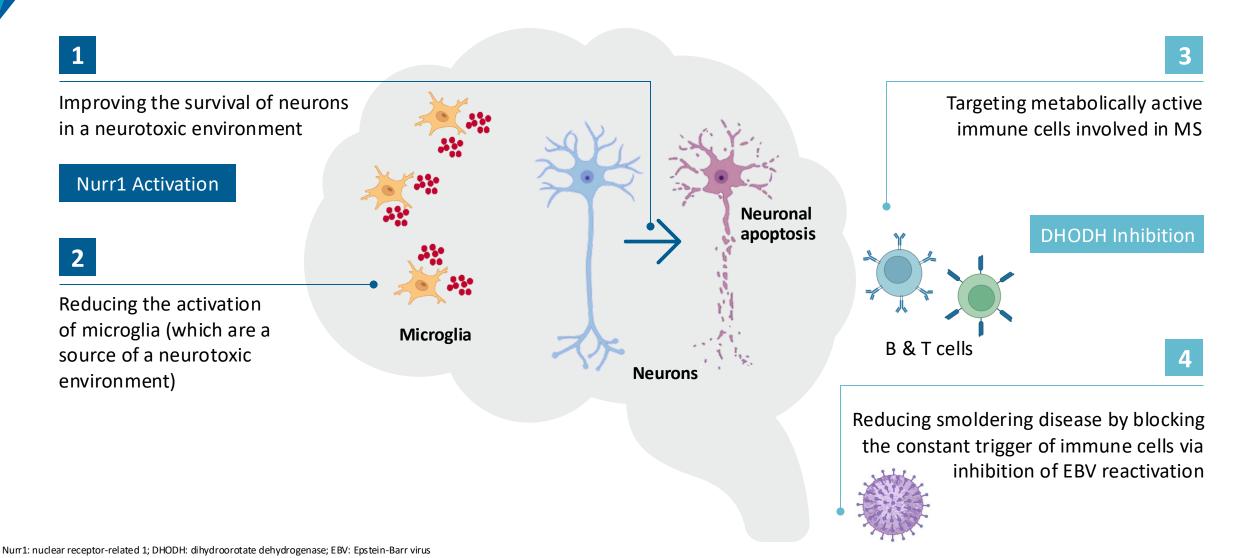
Number of reported COVID-19 cases Cohort 2:



Left: Eur J Clin Invest. 2020;50:e13366 / middle: Marschall et al., Poster ECTRIMS 2021 / right: Immunic data; DHODH: dihydroorotate dehydrogenase; RNA: ribonucleic acid; DNA: deoxyribonucleic acid; EC50: half-maximal effective concentration; EBV: Epstein-Barr virus; hlgG: human immunoglobulin G; SARS-CoV-2: severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus; COVID-19: coronavirus disease 2019; RRMS: relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis



# Vidofludimus Calcium: General Effects on MS Disease Processes



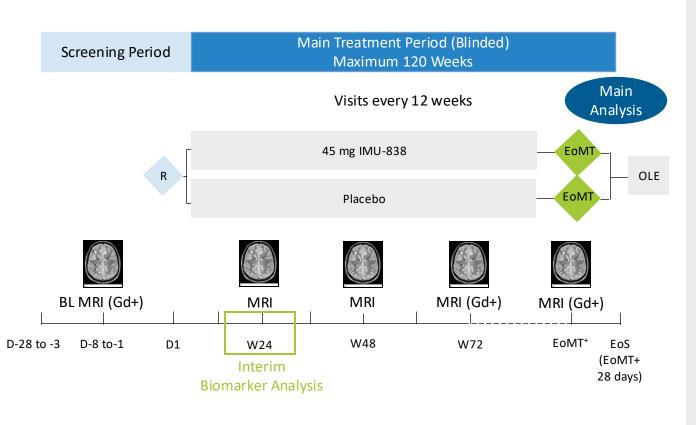


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Vidofludimus Calcium in Multiple Sclerosis (MS)

Development in Progressive Multiple Sclerosis (PMS)

# CALLIPER: Ongoing Phase 2 Clinical Trial in Progressive MS NCT05054140



### Coordinating Investigator: Robert J. Fox, M.D., Cleveland Clinic

+EoMT: at W120 or when last enrolled patient reaches W72

BL: baseline; D: day; EoMT: end of main treatment period; EoS: end of study; MRI: magnetic resonance imaging; Gd+: gadolinium-enhancing; OLE: open-label extension; R: randomization; W: week; QD: quaque die = once-daily; EDSS: Expanded Disability Status Scale; PPMS: primary progressive multiple sclerosis; SPMS: secondary progressive multiple sclerosis; SPMS: second



### Multicenter, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Phase 2 Trial

- 467 patients enrolled at more than 70 sites in North America, Western, Central and Eastern Europe
- Randomization to 45 mg vidofludimus calcium or placebo QD
- Primary endpoint: annualized rate of percent brain volume change up to 120 weeks
- Key secondary endpoint: time to 24-week confirmed composite disability progression based on EDSS, timed 25-foot walk and 9-hole peg test
- Blinded main treatment period up to 120 weeks
- Optional, approximately 8-year, open-label extension period



### Included Patient Population: Progressive Forms of MS

- Adult patients aged 18 to 65 years
- PPMS or SPMS diagnosis (revised McDonald criteria 2017)
- EDSS score at screening between 3.0 to 6.5
- No evidence of relapse in last 24 months before randomization
- Evidence of disability progression

# There Are Three Distinct MS Indications

The Different Indications Have Different Paths and Drivers of the Disability Progression

### **Relapsing MS**

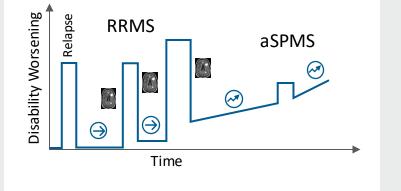
- Includes relapsing-remitting MS and active secondary progressive MS
- Relapses and MRI lesions dominate clinical course, disability progression already present
- Current drugs mainly address relapses and relapse-associated disability worsening

### **Non-Active SPMS**

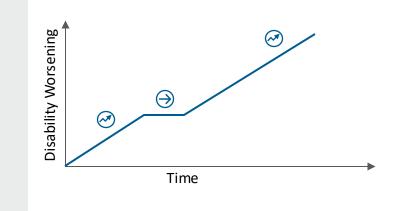
- Relapses have stopped, but disability progression continues
- No therapies approved, to date

### **Primary Progressive MS**

- Disability worsening without relapses from the start without predominance of relapses
- Only one drug approved, so far





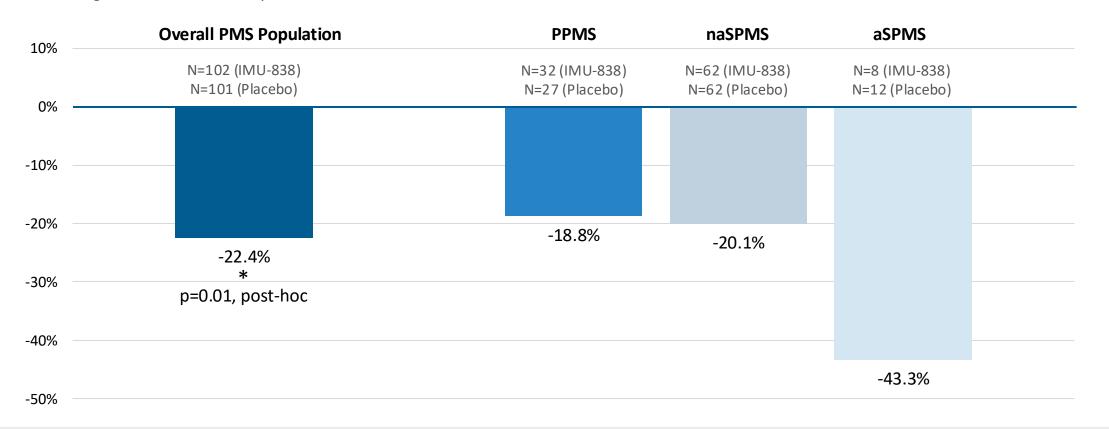


Adapted from Kretzschmar A., MSVirtual2020; \*Lublin FD, et al. Brain. 2022 Sep 14;145(9):3147-3161

MS: multiple sclerosis; MRI: magnetic resonance imaging; RRMS: relapsing-remitting MS; SPMS: secondary progressive MS; aSPMS: active SPMS



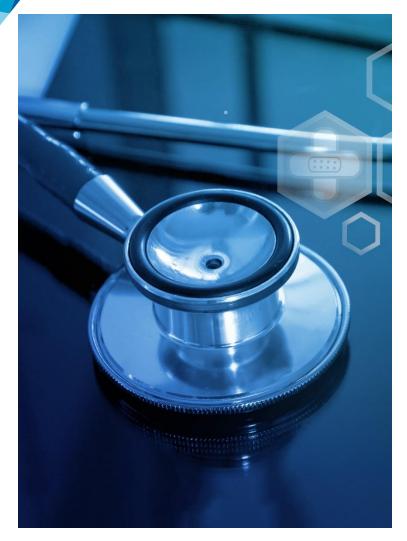
# CALLIPER Interim Data: Improvements in Serum NfL for Vidofludimus Calcium Consistent Throughout the Overall PMS Population and All Subtypes



Mean Change to Week 24 as Compared to Placebo in % of Baseline

Standard deviation for change from baseline in % of baseline: CALLIPER week 24: IMU-838 35.7%, PPMS: IMU-838 7.1%, naSPMS: IMU-838 14.7%, aSPMS: IMU-838 10.3%, 95% Hodges-Lehmann confidence bound EMPhASIS week 24 for 45mg IMU-838: lower boundary -41.0%, upper boundary -12.0%, includes all randomized patients with available neurofilament data at interim analysis, arithmetic mean value for group averages; aSPMS and naSPMS design tight as period in a specific diagnosis by clinical investigator at study entry

# Positive Interim Biomarker Data of Vidofludimus Calcium in Progressive Multiple Sclerosis





Biomarker evidence that vidofludimus calcium's activity extends beyond the previously observed anti inflammatory effects, thereby further reinforcing its neuroprotective potential



Vidofludimus calcium aiming to address high unmet medical need in non active SPMS where no relevant treatments are available in the US



Overall CALLIPER trial ongoing; top line data of the full 467 patients expected in April 2025



Results of this interim analysis may inform the ability to potentially reduce PIRA events in the ongoing phase 3 ENSURE program in RMS



# Thank You!



### Hella Kohlhof, PhD

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