# MPN Therapy in 2021

18<sup>th</sup> Indy HEME Review



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Consulting: Novartis, La Jolla, Samus, Sierra Oncology, Blueprint, Abbvie, BMS, Genentech, Roche, Geron

Research Support: Incyte, Celgene, CTI, Promedior, Genentech, Abbvie, Imago

Off Label Use: Hydroxyurea, PEG Interferon, ruxolitinib



## Learning Objectives

- 1. Better understand the factors leading to the burden of having an MPN
- 2. Understand the role of cytoreduction for essential thrombocythemia
- 3. Understand evolving role of interferons for polycythemia vera and new upcoming agents
- 4. Understand evolving front and second line agents for myelofibrosis



## MPNs 2021

- Burden of Having an MPN
- Essential Thrombocythemia
- Polycythemia Vera
- Myelofibrosis
- Complementary Approaches



## Assessing MPN Burden

#### WHO Diagnosis Does Not Tell Whole Story





## Treatment Goals

- Avoiding thrombosis and bleeding?
- Improving MPN associated symptoms?
- Increase activity?
- Decreasing splenomegaly?
- Improving anemia?
- Improving low platelets?
- Decreasing progression?
- Preventing progression?
- Live longer?



## What is a treatment guideline?





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## Management of ET 2021





#### Pipeline – PV and ET



UT Health San Antonio MD Anderson Cancer Center

## MAJIC PV: A randomised study of ruxlotinib vs BAT in HC resistant/intolerant PV (& ET) Real world study from UK no cross-over

Speed of attaining response

Duration of overall response

Transformation free survival



Harrison C, et al, PF625, EHA 2018

# LSD1 Inhibition has Strong Therapeutic Rationale in MPNs

- LSD1 inhibition impairs function of both activated megakaryocytes and malignant stem cells
- Megakaryocytes produce cytokines and growth factors that drive myelofibrosis



LSD1 inhibition reduces production of megakaryocytes, growth factors and cytokines = symptom improvement Potential to extinguish self-renewal of malignant stem cells = potential to improve overall survival



## CTP-201 Study Design in ET

#### Essential Thrombocythemia (ET)

Rare chronic blood disorder driven by sustained overproduction of platelets by megakaryocytes in the bone marrow Characterized by microcirculatory symptoms and risk of thrombosis, bleeding and related cardiovascular events and can progress to AML 80k high-risk patients eligible for bomedemstat in US Bomedemstat safely reduces platelets in MPNs

#### Phase 2b Protocol Synopsis

FDA approved in 2019 Up to 60 high-risk ET patients Open label, bomedemstat once-daily ~25 sites in US, UK, EU, AUS and NZ Primary objectives:

#### Primary objectives:

Safety and tolerability Reduction of platelet count to

≤400k/µL

#### Secondary objectives

Reduction in VAF Reduced event rate (thrombosis and hemorrhage) Reduced progression to MF and AML



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#### American Society of Hematology Helping hematologists conquer blood diseases worldwide



#### Symptom Burden and Quality of Life in High-Risk ET and PV Patients Receiving Hydroxyurea or Pegylated Interferon Alfa-2a: Results of MPN-RC 111 and 112 Trials

Gina L. Mazza



on behalf of

Carolyn Mead-Harvey, John Mascarenhas, Abdulraheem Yacoub, Ronald Hoffman, Heidi E. Kosiorek, Josef T. Prchal, Richard T. Silver, Tiziano Barbui, Amylou C. Dueck, Ruben A. Mesa



# **Results – Patients**

Characteristic	MPN-	RC 111	MPN-RC 112		
Characteristic	ET ( <i>n</i> = 64) PV ( <i>n</i> = 50)		ET ( <i>n</i> = 79)	PV ( <i>n</i> = 87)	
Sex (% Female)	51%	48%	50%	33%	
Age in Years (Median, Range)	65 (20 – 85)	64 (26 – 84)	60 (18 – 83)	62 (20 – 88)	
Months Since Dx (Median, Range)	38 (0 – 291)	55 (1 – 394)	3 (0 – 48)	3 (0 – 84)	
Prior Thrombosis (%)	31%	22%	25%	29%	
Splenomegaly (%)	19%	56%	11%	37%	



# **Results – Symptoms**

- MPN-RC 111 patients had significant improvement of TSS, fatigue, abdominal pain, abdominal discomfort, dizziness, numbness, night sweats, and fever
- MPN-RC 112 PEG patients had significant **worsening** of fever
- MPN-RC 112 HU patients had significant **worsening** of inactivity
- MPN-RC 111 and 112 PEG patients had significant **worsening** of PEGrelated symptoms

61st Annual Meeting & Exposition of the American Society of Hematology

## THROMBOEMBOLIC RISK REDUCTION AND HIGH RATE OF COMPLETE MOLECULAR RESPONSE WITH LONG-TERM USE OF ROPEGINTERFERON ALPHA-2B IN POLYCYTHEMIA VERA: RESULTS FROM A RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED STUDY

Jean-Jacques Kiladjian,

Christoph Klade, Pencho Georgiev, Dorota Krochmalczyk, Liana Gercheva-Kyuchukova, Miklos Egyed, Viktor Rossiev, Petr Dulicek, Arpad Illes, Halyna Pylypenko, Lylia Sivcheva, Jiri Mayer, Vera Yablokova, Kurt Krejcy, Hans C. Hasselbalch, Robert Kralovics and Heinz Gisslinger for the PROUD-PV Study Group

#### Phase III: PROUD- and CONTINUATION-PV



\*\*Control group received best available treatment (BAT; 97% of patients received hydroxyurea as of last available assessment)

#### Complete Hematologic Response (CHR)



Study Month	Responder/N	Responder %	Responder/N	Responder %	P-value	RR [95% CI] (AOP2014/Control)
	Ropeginterf	eron (N=95)	Control	(N=76)		
Month 12 (End of PROUD-PV)	59/95	62.1	57/76	75.0	0.1211	0.85 [0.70-1.04]
Month 24	67/95	70.5	33/67	49.3	0.0117	1.41 [1.08-1.85]
Month 36	67/95	70.5	38/74	51.4	0.0108	1.39 [1.08-1.79]
Month 48	57/94	60.6	33/76	43.4	0.0194	1.43 [1.06–1.93]

#### Major Thromboembolic Events (Derived from Safety Data)

#### Observational period: 419 patients-years in Ropeginterferon arm, 338 patient-years in control arm

Patients	Sex	Prior HU	PV duration (months)	Age (years)	Prior TE events	Thromboembolic event	Onset (days since first dose)	CHR prior to event
Ropegint	erferoi	n						
1	М	No	0.8	61	No	Haemorrhagic transformation stroke Ischemic stroke	63 1406	Not available Yes
2	F	Yes	1.7	61	No	Ischemic stroke	95	No
3	Μ	No	0.5	64	Yes	Splenic infarction / truncus coeliacus thrombosis	183	No
4	Μ	Yes	26.0	67	No	Intracardiac thrombus	280	No
Control								
1	М	No	0.6	77	No	Femoral artery occlusion	131	No
2	F	No	7.6	67	No	Embolism	176	Yes
3	F	No	17.0	65	Yes	Thrombophlebitis superficial	713	No
4	F	No	0.1	76	No	Venous thrombosis limb	1016	No

#### Malignancies

Year of treatment	Treatment- or PV-related neoplasms (investigator's assessment)				
	Ropeginterferon	Control			
1	-	Basal cell carcinoma (2 cases)			
2	-	Acute leukemia (2 cases) Malignant melanoma			
3	-	-			
4	-	Myelofibrosis			
> 4	Myelofibrosis	-			
Total	1	6			

All neoplasms, including those unrelated to PV or treatment:Ropeginterferon arm:16 cases in 12 patientsControl arm:15 cases in 12 patients

## **Molecular Response**



Study Month	Responder/N	Responder %	Responder/N	Responder %	P-value	RR [95% CI] (AOP2014/Control)
	Ropeginter	feron (N=95)	Control	(N=76)		
Month 12 (End of PROUD)	41/94	43.6	36/73	49.3	0.3706	0.87 [0.63-1.19]
Month 24	64/94	68.1	24/74	32.4	<0.0001	1.99 [1.41-2.82]
Month 36	62/94	66.0	20/74	27.0	<0.0001	2.38 [1.56-3.42]
Month 48	63/4	67.0	19/74	25.7	<0.0001	2.50 [1.68-3.72]

#### PTG-300 Eliminates the Need for Therapeutic Phlebotomy and Reverses Iron Deficiency in Both Low and High-risk Polycythemia Vera Patients

<u>Marina Kremyanskaya</u><sup>1</sup>, Yelena Ginzburg<sup>1</sup>, Andrew Kuykendall<sup>2</sup>, Naveen Pemmaraju<sup>3</sup>, Abdulraheem Yacoub<sup>4</sup>, Jay Yang<sup>5</sup>, Frank Valone<sup>6</sup>, Sarita Khanna<sup>6</sup>, Suneel Gupta<sup>6</sup>, Srdan Verstovsek<sup>3</sup>, Ronald Hoffman<sup>1</sup>

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Program Section: Novel Therapies and Targets in MPN





## **PTG-300 (Rusfertide) Mechanism of Action**



EHA2021



#### **Therapeutic Phlebotomies Prior to and on PTG-300**





#### **Improvement in MPN-TSS Scores Following PTG-300**



**TOTAL SYMPTOM SCORE** 



#### Kremyanskaya EHA 2021





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## Management of Myelofibrosis 2021





### JAK Inhibitor Landscape 2021





# Takeaway 1:

# Effective MF Therapies May Prolong Overall Survival



## Results: OS ~ Ruxolitinib



Masarova et. al. ASH 2020





#### Overall and progression-free survival in patients treated with fedratinib as first-line myelofibrosis therapy and after prior ruxolitinib: results from the JAKARTA and JAKARTA2 trials

<u>Claire Harrison</u>,<sup>1</sup> Jean-Jacques Kiladjian,<sup>2</sup> Srdan Verstovsek,<sup>3</sup> Alessandro Vannucchi,<sup>4</sup> Ruben Mesa,<sup>5</sup> Andreas Reiter,<sup>6</sup> Jun Zhang,<sup>7</sup> Shelonitda Rose,<sup>7</sup> and John Mascarenhas<sup>8</sup>

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Presentation S203

## JAKARTA: Progression-free survival

- FEDR 400 significantly reduced the risk of disease progression vs. PBO (P = 0.004)
  - Median PFS was 5.7 months longer in the FEDR 400 arm vs. PBO: 23.2 vs. 17.5 mo, respectively
  - 1-year PFS: FEDR 400 83%, PBO 67%
- 80 pts (42%) were still being followed for PFS at the time of clinical hold
  - Median follow-up: FEDR 400, 10.6 mo; PBO, 9.1 mo
- AML transformation was reported in 3 pts (3%) in the FEDR 400 arm and 2 pts (2%) in the PPO arm<sup>3</sup>



(2%) in the PBO arm<sup>a</sup> <sup>a</sup>AML transformation was based on adverse event reporting, including the preferred terms of "Acute myeloid leukemia", "Acute leukemia", and "Transformation to acute myeloid leukemia". P value from log-rank test.

AML, acute myeloid leukemia; CI, confidence interval; HR, hazard ratio; FEDR, fedratinib; mo, months; PBO, placebo; PFS, progression-free survival; pts, patients.

- Median OS was not reached (NR) in the FEDR 400 [95%CI, 23.7 mo - NR] or PBO [22.7 - NR] arm
  - 1-year OS rates: FEDR 400 mg, 92%; PBO, 86%
  - 18-mo OS rates: FEDR 400 mg, 87%; PBO, 80%
- ITT analysis; 74% of PBOrandomized pts crossed-over to FEDR after EOC6
- 139 pts (72%) were censored for OS at the time of clinical hold

- Median follow-up: FEDR 400 mg, P value from 19: 30 mps; PBO, 18.8 mo

CI, confidence interval; HR, hazard ratio; FEDR, fedratinib; mo, months; NR, not reached; OS, overall survival; PBO, placebo; pts, patients.



JAKARTA | JAKARTA2

## JAKARTA2: Progression-free survival

JAKARTA | JAKARTA2



- Median PFS was 13.3 mo
  - 1-year PFS rate was 59%
- 62 pts (64%) were still being followed for PFS at the time of clinical hold
  - Median follow-up: 5.6 mo
- 2 pts (2%) experienced transformation to AML during the JAKARTA2 Tx period<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>AML transformation was based on adverse event reporting, including the preferred terms of "*Acute myeloid leukemia*", "*Acute leukemia*", and "*Transformation to acute myeloid leukemia*". AML, acute myeloid leukemia; FEDR, fedratinib; mo, months; PFS, progression-free survival; pts, patients; Tx, treatment.

- Median OS was NR [95%CI, 17.1 - NR]
  - 1-year and 18-mo OS rates were
     84% and 67%, respectively
- 79 pts (81%) were censored for OS at the time of clinical hold
  - Median follow-up: 10.8 mo



FEDR, fedratinib; mo, months; NR, not reached; OS, overall survival; PBO, placebo; pts, patients.

## Transfusion Independence is Associated with Improved Overall Survival in Myelofibrosis Patients Receiving Momelotinib

Ruben Mesa<sup>\*</sup>, Stephen T. Oh, Aaron T. Gerds, Vikas Gupta, John Catalano, Francisco Cervantes, Timothy Devos, Marek Hus, Jean-Jacques Kiladjian, Ewa Lech-Maranda, Donal McLornan, Jeanne Palmer, Uwe Platzbecker, Jacek Treliński, Kazuya Shimoda, Rafe Donahue, Bryan Strouse, Mark Kowalski, Srdan Verstovsek \*\* Mays Cancer Center, UT Health San Antonio, MD Anderson

- Momelotinib (MMB) is a JAK1, JAK2 and ACVR1/ALK2 inhibitor
- Previously published data from the SIMPLIFY-1 Ph3 study of MMB vs ruxolitinib in JAKi-naïve patients show higher Week-24 (W24) transfusion independence (TI) responder rates on MMB (67%) vs RUX (49%)
- Correlation between W24 TI response and overall survival observed with MMB is unique and supports the clinical relevance of TI in patients with myelofibrosis receiving MMB: 3-year survival in MMB TI responders was 80% compared to 50% in MMB TI nonresponders







#### IMbark Phase 2 Imetelstat Data: Survival<sup>1</sup>



Kaplan-Meier Curves (Unweighted) for Naive Comparison

1. Mascarenhas J et al. EHA 2020. Abstract EP1107;

2. Kuykendall AT et al. Ann Hematol. 2018;97(3):435-441;

3. Newberry KJ et al. Blood. 2017;130(9):1125-1131;

4. Spiegel JY et al. Blood Adv. 2017;1(20):1729-1738.

#### Median overall survival:

28.1 months (95% CI, 22.8-31.6) **After discontinuation of ruxolitinib<sup>2-4</sup>:** Median overall survival is ~14-16 months.



#### Potential OS Improvement with 9.4 mg/kg Imetelstat Treatment in Patients with MF R/R to JAKi



Imetelstat 4.7 MG/KG + Imetelstat 9.4 MG/KG

	4.7 mg/kg (N = 48)	9.4 mg/kg (N = 59)
Number of events, n (%)	35 (72.9%)	36 (61.0%)
Number censored, n (%)	13 (27.1%)	23 (39.0%)
Median Overall Survival (months) (95% CI)	19.9 (17.1, 33.9)	28.1 (22.8, 31.6)
12-months survival rate % (95% CI)	78.6 (63.9 <i>,</i> 87.9)	84.0 (71.6, 91.4)
24-months survival rate % (95% CI)	42.0 (27.4, 56.0)	57.9 (43.6 <i>,</i> 69.7)

OS analysis was performed based on database lock in April 2020; median follow-up was 41.7 months (range 0.2, 49.2)

Similar results were observed when sensitivity analyses accounted for confounding factors of subsequent therapies, including hematopoietic stem cell transplantation and dose escalation from 4.7 mg/kg to 9.4 mg/kg

Mascarenhas et. al. ASH 2020



# Comparison for 1L MF Therapy



Verstovsek et. al. NEJM 2012 Pardanani et. al. JAMA Inc 2015 Mesa et. al. JCO 2017 Mesa et. al. Lancet Hematology 2017 Mascarenhas et. al. ASH 2020



#### A selection of novel agents/targets being developed in MPN particularly MF



#### **Mechanism of Potential Disease Modification in Myelofibrosis**

Reduce Inflammation and Suppress Cells in the Bone Marrow That Drive MF (Megakaryocytes)



Mascarenhas et. al. ASH 2019

#### Imetelstat: First-in-Class Telomerase Inhibitor

#### **Imetelstat**

- **Proprietary:** 13-mer thio-phosphoramidate oligonucleotide complementary to hTR, with covalently-bound lipid tail to increase cell permeability.
- Potent, first in class competitive inhibitor of telomerase: IC50 = 0.5-10 nM
- **Target:** selectively targets heme (MF) malignant stem and progenitor cell proliferation.<sup>1, 2</sup>

Imetelstat binds to RNA template



- Short telomere length (TL), high levels of telomerase activity (TA) and high expression of human telomerase reverse transcriptase (hTERT) correlated with higher risk, disease progression and shorter OS in patients with myeloid malignancies.<sup>3-5</sup>
- Nonclinical studies demonstrated that imetelstat reduces TA, hTERT expression level, and JAK2V617F<sup>+</sup> hematopoietic progenitor cells in MF patient samples, indicative of mechanism based on-target activity.<sup>1,2</sup>
- Cells with high levels of TA and hTERT and short TL, represent best target for treatment with telomerase inhibitor.

<sup>1</sup>Wang, et al. *Blood Adv* 2018;2:2378-88.
<sup>2</sup>Mosoyan, et al. *Leukemia* 2017;31:2458-67.
<sup>3</sup>Briatore, et al. *Cancer Biol Ther* 2009;8:883-9.
<sup>4</sup>Kishtagari and Watts. *Ther Adv Hematol* 2017;8:317-26.
<sup>5</sup>Wang, et al. *Int J Lab Hematol* 2010;32:230-8.



- This study reports the results of the ongoing open-label, phase 2 ACE-536-MF-001 trial evaluating luspatercept in subjects with MF and anemia, focusing on response in subjects requiring RBC transfusions (NCT03194542)
- Figure 1. ACE-536-MF-001 study design<sup>a</sup>



- 79 subjects with MF and anemia had been enrolled by the data cutoff and were included in this updated analysis (March 29, 2020)
- The analyses presented here focus on response in subjects requiring RBC transfusions (Cohorts 2 and 3B); safety is reported for all 79 subjects on study

As of March 29, 2020, 16 (20%) subjects remain on treatment. <sup>a</sup>Enrolled subjects had primary or post-essential thrombocythemia/post-polycythemia vera myelofibrosis; <sup>b</sup>A stable daily dose of RUX for at least 16 weeks at enrollment; for the 3 subjects enrolled in the expansion cohort in Cohort 3B, subjects were receiving a stable RUX dose for 40 weeks; <sup>c6-12</sup> RBC units/84 days prior to treatment; or 4-12 units/84 days for the 3 subjects enrolled in the expansion cohort in Cohort 3B; <sup>d</sup>Including 3 subjects enrolled in the expansion cohort; <sup>e</sup>The starting dose was 1.33 mg/kg in the expansion cohort subjects. MF, myelofibrosis; RBC, red blood cell; RUX, ruxolitinib.

# Comparison for 2L Therapy

#### Second Line MF Therapy



Pemmaraju et. al. ASH 2020 Verstovsek et. al. ASH 2020 Harrison et. al. ASH 2019 Verstovsek et. al. Mascarenhas et. al. Yacoub et. al. ASH 2020 Mascarenhas et. al. ASH 2020 Talpaz et. al ASH 2020



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## Non Pharmacological Approaches for MPN Burden Relief



UT Health MDAnderson

San Antonio

Cancer Center

## Conclusions MPNs 2021

- 1) Adequately assess the burden on the MPN and develop appropriate therapy and goals
- 2) If therapy is not beneficial change to alternative therapy or clinical trial
- 3) JAK inhibitors and interferons do have a benefit for many subsets of MPN patients, yet opportunities exist
- 4) Multiple additional pathway targeted agents are undergoing parallel testing primarily in 2<sup>nd</sup> line MF and 3<sup>rd</sup> line PV or ET
- 5) Non pharmacological therapies may augment treatment options for MPNs









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