

# Applying Antisense Technology for the Treatment of Transthyretin Amyloidosis

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#### **Isis Pharmaceuticals**



Founded: 1989
Location: Carlsbad, California
Company Focus: RNA Targeted Therapeutics
Antisense Drugs
~300 employees
Capabilities:
Drug discovery
Early development
Manufacturing

#### **Proteins are Made from Genes via mRNA**



#### Small Molecules & Biologics Target Proteins



### **Antisense Drugs Target RNA, not Proteins**



#### Natural Nucleic Acids Have Poor Druglike Properties

- Rapid degradation by nucleases present in plasma and tissues
- ➢ Rapid clearance by kidney
- ➢ Poor cellular uptake



#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation Antisense Oligos have been Developed that have Better Drug-Like Properties





**Increases** potency

modified DNA oligos.

No new toxicities

#### **Chemistry Attributes**

Increases stability to nucleases

Reduces toxicities observed with PS

**Drug Properties** 

Potency	~50 to 400 mg/week Weekly to monthly Competitive with upper end of branded small molecules				
Dose Frequency					
Cost of Therapy					
Routes of Administration	Sub Q, I.V., inhalation, topical, intrathecal				

#### **Isis Pipeline (2011)**

partnered

PROJECT		TARGET	PRECLINICAL	PHASE I	PHASE II	PHASE III	APPROVED		
CARDIOVASCULAR									
Mipomersen	High Cholesterol	ароВ				genz	me		
ISIS-CRP <sub>Rx</sub>	CAD/Inflammation/Renal	CRP							
ISIS-APOCIII <sub>Rx</sub>	High Triglycerides	apoC-III							
ISIS-FXI <sub>Rx</sub>	Clotting Disorders	Factor XI							
BMS-PCSK9 <sub>Rx</sub>	CAD	PCSK9	_			Bristol-Myers Squib	b		
METABOLIC									
ISIS 113715	Diabetes	PTP-1B							
ISIS-SGLT2 <sub>Rx</sub>	Diabetes	SGLT2							
ISIS-GCCR <sub>Rx</sub>	Diabetes	GCCR	-						
ISIS-GCGR <sub>Rx</sub>	Diabetes	GCGR	-						
ISIS-FGFR4 <sub>Rx</sub>	Obesity	FGFR4	-						
CANCER									
OGX-011	Cancer	clusterin				<b>17131</b> 71	OncoGeneX		
LY2181308	Cancer	survivin				Lilly	Bringlog hope to life.***		
ISIS-EIF4E <sub>Rx</sub>	Cancer	eIF-4E			_				
OGX-427	Cancer	Hsp27	_		_	OncoGeneX"			
ISIS-STAT3 <sub>Rx</sub>	Cancer	STAT3	_			Bringing hope to life.***			
SEVERE & RARE NEURODEGENERATIVE									
ISIS-SOD1 <sub>Rx</sub>	ALS	SOD1							
ISIS-TTR <sub>Rx</sub>	Severe & Rare	TTR				gsk			
ISIS-SMN <sub>Rx</sub>	Spinal Muscular Atrophy	SMN2	-						
ISIS-AAT <sub>Rx</sub>	AAT-Liver Disease	α1-Antitrypsin	_			gsk			
INFLAMMATION & OTHER									
Vitravene®	CMV Retinitis	CMV				U NOVARTIS			
Alicaforsen	Ulcerative Colitis	ICAM-1			_	Atlantic			
ACHN-490	Severe Bacterial Infection	Aminoglycoside				ACHAOGEN			
ATL1102	MS	VLA-4				Zantisense			
EXC 001	Local Fibrosis	CTGF				EXCALIARD PHARMACEUTICALS INC			
iCo-007	Ocular Disease	C-raf kinase				iCo Therapeutics Inc.			
ATI 1103	Acromedaly	GHr				Xantinonaa			

#### **The Isis Clinical Experience**

- > 5,000 patients treated, approximately 2,900 with 2<sup>nd</sup> generation (2'-MOE) drugs
- ▲ > 500 patients treated ≥ 12 weeks, > 280 treated ≥ 6 months,
   > 120 treated ≥ 1 year
- ▲ 2<sup>nd</sup> generation antisense oligos have been well tolerated
- 2<sup>nd</sup> generation antisense oligos are generally given as once weekly sc injections
- Liver and kidney are sensitive tissues to antisense oligo treatment

## Developing ISIS-TTR<sub>Rx</sub> for Treating Transthyretin Amyloidosis

# What is ISIS-TTR<sub>Rx</sub>?

- ISIS-TTR<sub>Rx</sub> is a second generation antisense drug that destroys the TTR mRNA
- This prevents the production of both mutant and normal TTR protein



# **Rationale for ISIS-TTR<sub>Rx</sub>**

- Mutant and normal TTR protein can form amyloid deposits in tissue and cause transthyretin amyloidosis
- The only currently approved therapy for transthyretin amyloidosis is liver transplant which lowers the levels of mutant TTR
- TTR is produced by the liver which is particularly sensitive tissue to the action of antisense oligos
- Thus, ISIS-TTR<sub>Rx</sub> treatment strategy which lowers both mutant and wild-type TTR may be an effective approach to treating this disease



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## Selection Process for Identifying ISIS-TTR<sub>Rx</sub>

- First many antisense oligos are made that will bind to the TTR mRNA
- ▲ Oligos are then screened in tissue culture cells
- A subset of those oligos are tested in mouse and monkey animal models
  - > Demonstrate lowering of TTR protein in plasma
  - Demonstrate lowering of TTR mRNA in liver
  - Study safety

▲ The best oligo is selected to test in clinical trials

# Status of ISIS-TTR<sub>Rx</sub>

- Drug identified and characterized
- **Efficacy in mouse and monkey models shown**
- Required toxicology studies are completed
- Phase 1 clinical trial in healthy volunteers is ongoing

### **Importance of Phase 1 Clinical Trials**

- The first study to deliver a drug to humans is *very* important
- **Provides key information about:** 
  - Safety in humans (what are the side effects?)
  - Pharmacokinetics (what are the drug levels in the human body?)
  - In some cases it can also provide information that the drug is working as predicted
- Results from Phase 1 studies are used to design future studies of the drug

# Status of the Phase 1 Study with ISIS-TTR<sub>Rx</sub> in Healthy Volunteers

- A Phase 1 study in healthy volunteers was initiated in May 2011
- Single and multiple doses of ISIS-TTR<sub>Rx</sub> are being evaluated at 4 different dose levels
- ▲ The study is designed to evaluate effects of ISIS-TTR<sub>Rx</sub> on:
  - safety (are there any side effects?)
  - > pharmacokinetics (what are the levels of drug in the blood?)
  - > pharmacodynamics (do plasma TTR levels go down?)
- ▲ To date, ISIS-TTR<sub>Rx</sub> appears to be well tolerated
- ▲ Reductions in plasma TTR levels have been observed
- ▲ The study is on track to complete on schedule. All patients will have completed the treatment period by Dec 2011

#### Antisense Approaches Against Transthyretin Summary

- Antisense oligonucleotides have been shown in multiple animal and human studies to reduce levels of disease-causing proteins and have been generally well tolerated
- ISIS-TTR<sub>Rx</sub> is an antisense drug that targets normal and mutant TTR and effectively lowers TTR levels in animals including nonhuman primates
- ISIS-TTR<sub>Rx</sub> is currently being tested in healthy human volunteers in a Phase 1 safety study
- Evaluation of ISIS-TTR<sub>Rx</sub> in patients with familial amyloid polyneuropathy is projected to start in the second half of 2012