

Calling All Super Heroes

Emerging Gene Therapy Strategies - Challenges, Risks and Potential for Cure

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Disclosures

The following faculty and planning committee staff have the following financial disclosures:

Name	Institution	Disclosure
Sung-Yun Pai, MD	Boston Children's Hospital/Dana-Farber Cancer Institute	None
Mark Walters, MD	UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital, Oakland	Bluebird bio, inc, Stipend, Consultant Sangamo Biotherapeutics, inc., Stipend, Consultant Bioverativ, Stipend, Consultant AllCells, inc., Stipend, Medical Director ViaCord Processing Lab, Stipend, Medical Director
Stephen Spellman	CIBMTR	None
Alexandra Erickson	CIBMTR	None
Misty Evans	Vanderbilt	Jazz Pharmaceuticals, Monetary, Speakers Bureau

Learning objectives

- At the conclusion of this session, attendees will be able to:
 - Define diseases that have the potential to be treated using gene therapy strategies
 - Analyze current strategies and methodologies such as CRISPR and viral vectors being used in gene therapy
 - Evaluate how these gene therapy strategies are being applied in current clinical trials

Gene therapy for primary immunodeficiency: Important firsts and iterative progress

Sung-Yun Pai MD

Associate Professor in Pediatrics

Co-Director, Gene Therapy Program

Division of Hematology-Oncology BCH, Department of Ped Onc DFCI

Minneapolis, MN

NMDP Council Meeting 2018

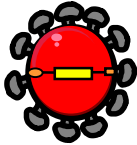
Gene Therapy Medicinal Products

Ex vivo

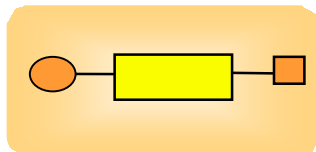
*genetically modified
human cells*

1) Isolation of the
target cells
(autologous or
allogeneic)

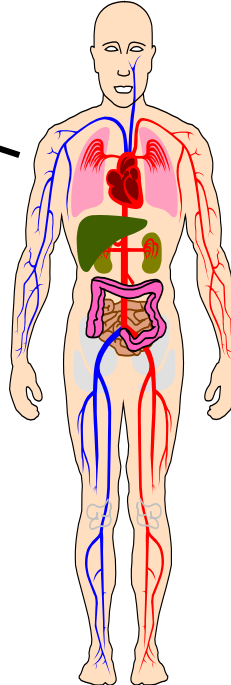
2) Gene transfer



3) Re-Infusion
of the genetically modified cells



cell

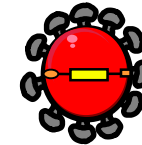


In vivo delivered
*vectors, nucleic acids,
replicating micro-organism
(not including live vaccines)*

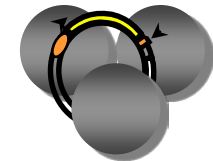


Direct application:

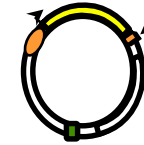
viral vector



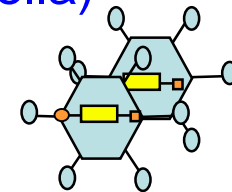
non-viral vector



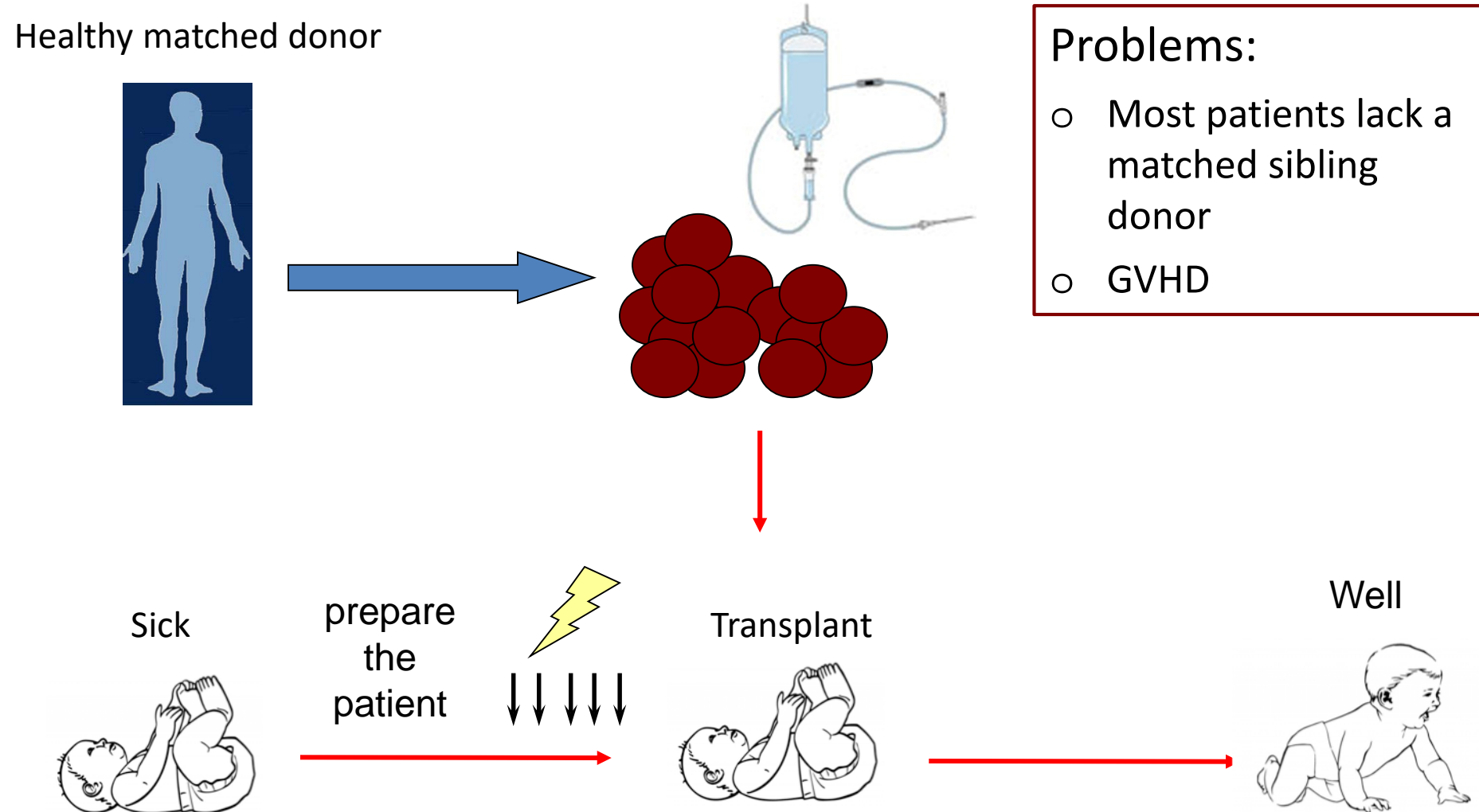
naked DNA



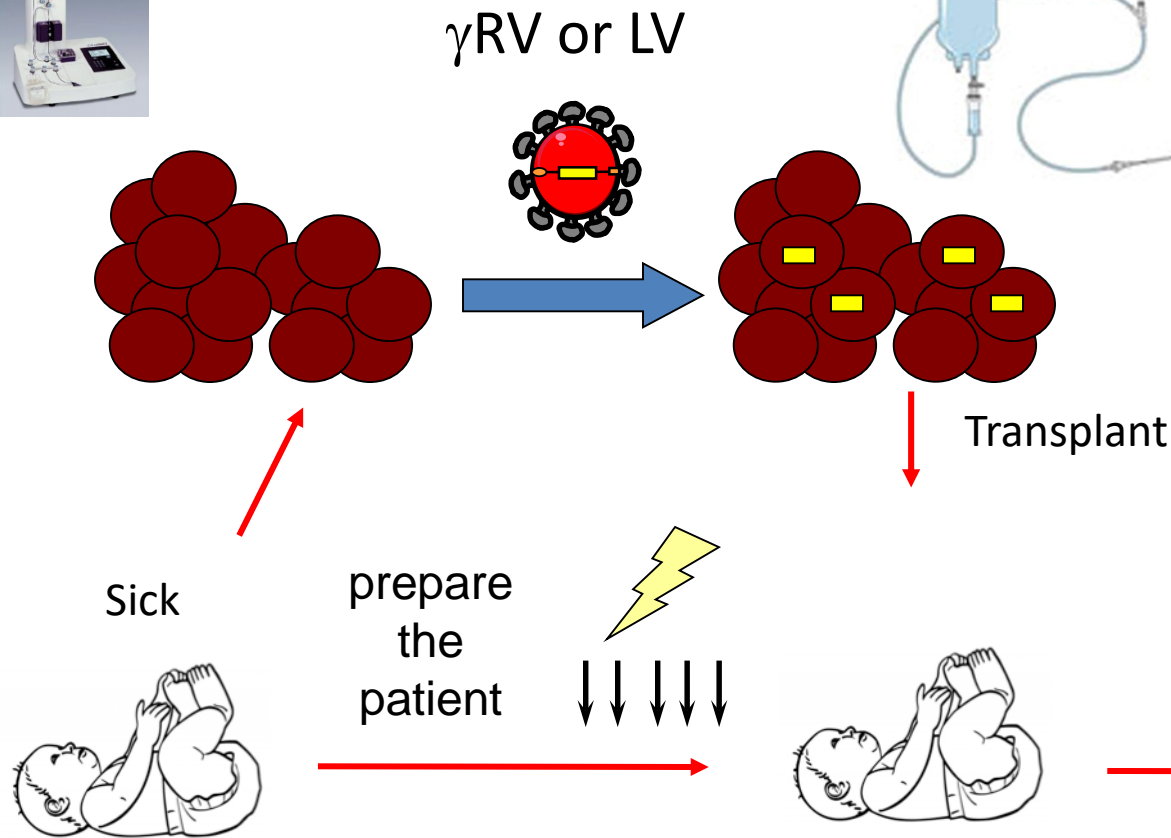
replicating rec. micro-organism
(adenovirus, Salmonella)



Limitations of allogeneic transplant for genetic blood disease



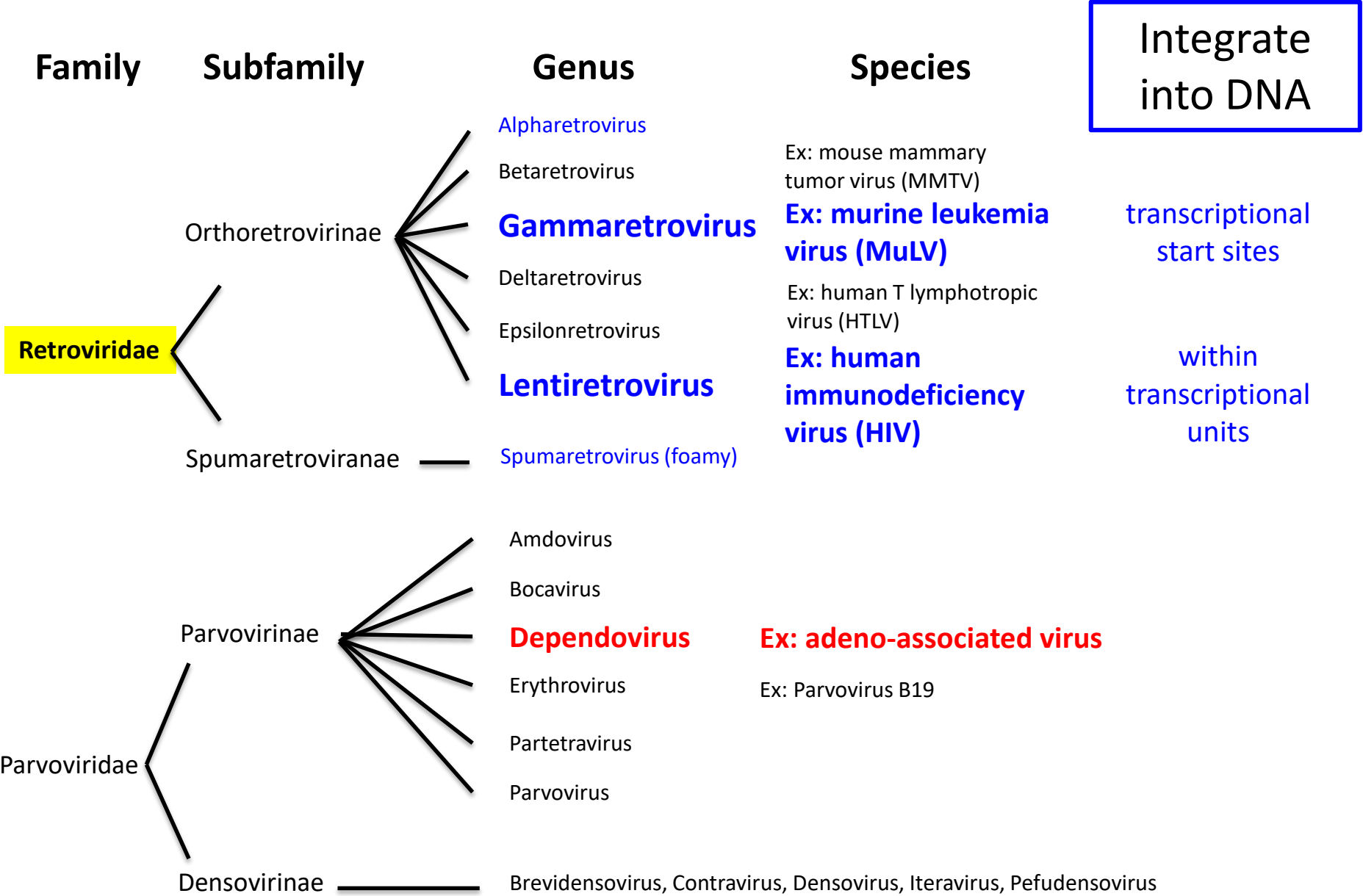
Gene therapy is an alternative to allogeneic transplant using the patient's own cells



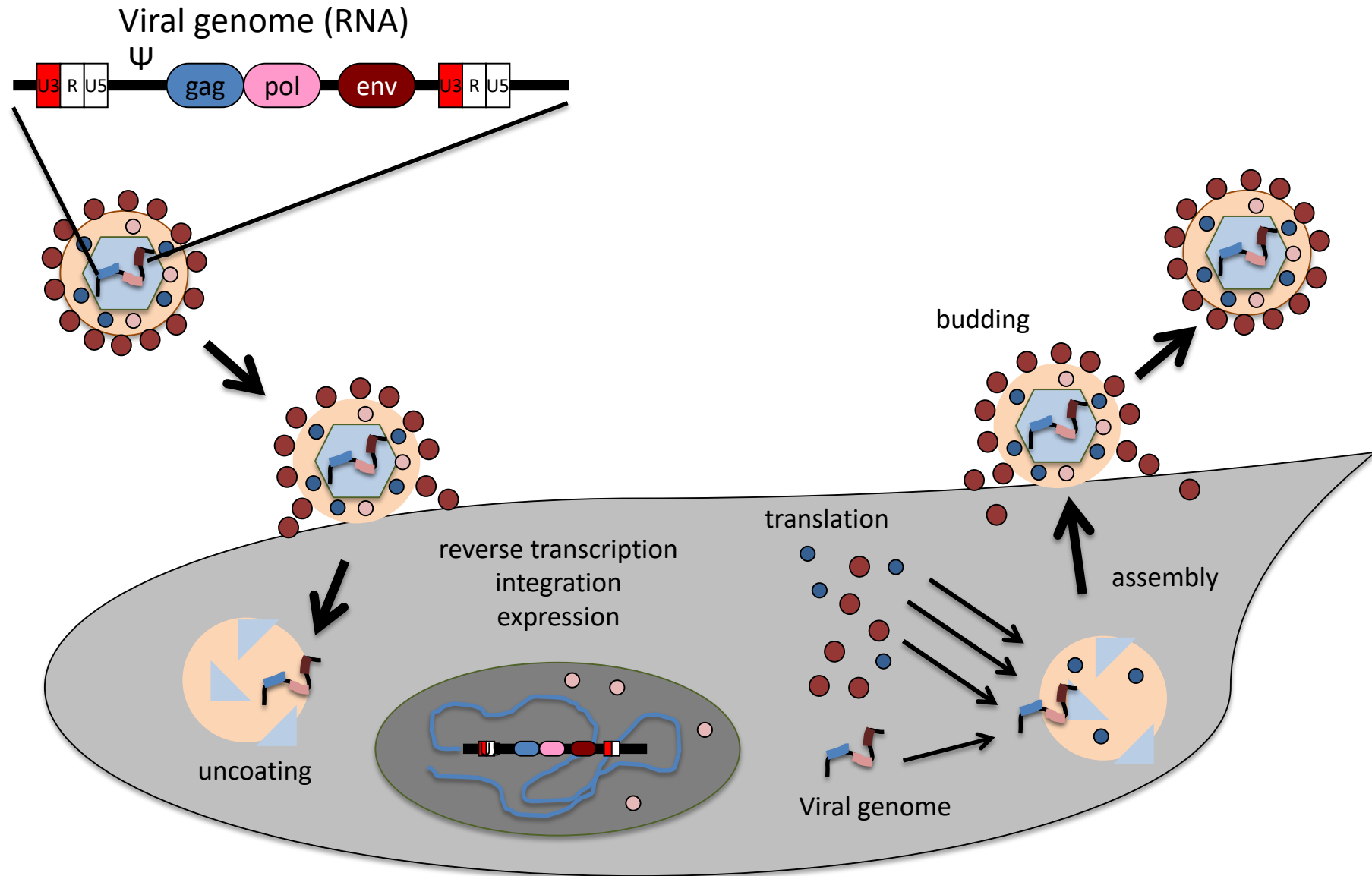
Advantages:

- Patient is own donor
- No GVHD
- Vector integrates into the DNA of the cell, and passes the gene to all progeny

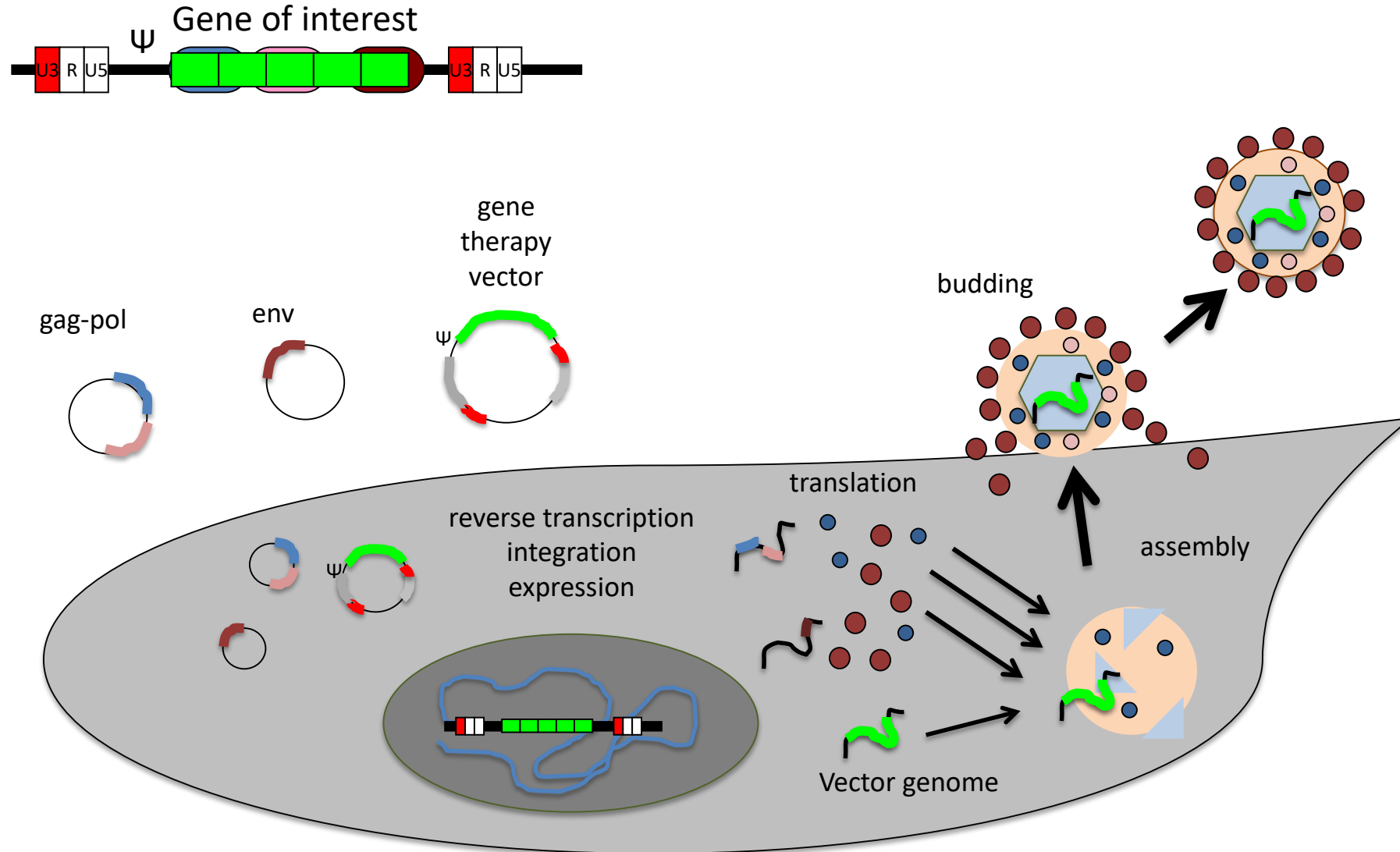
Retroviruses are used for ex vivo gene transfer into HSC



Simplified retroviral life cycle

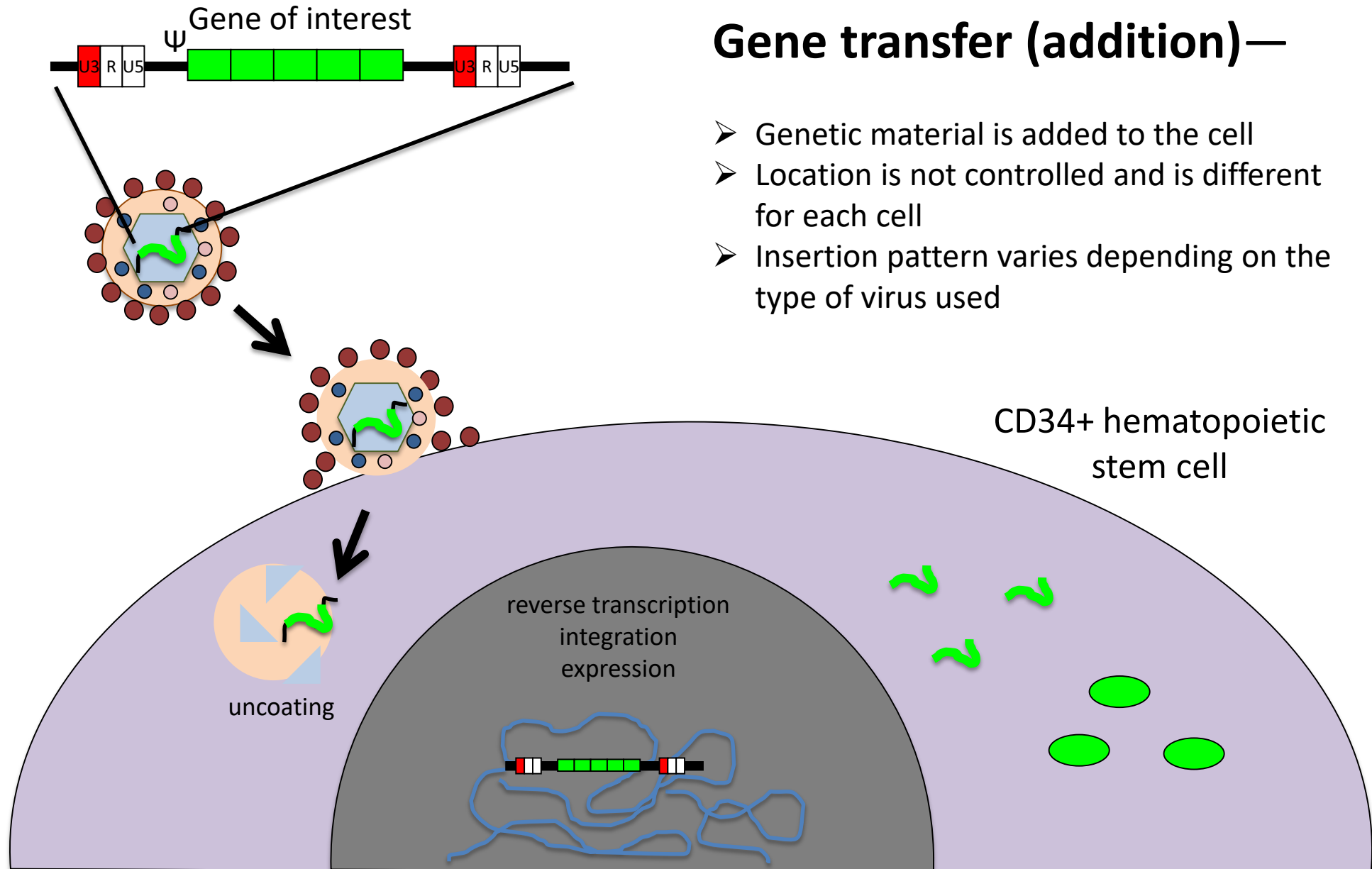


Gene transfer vectors are made to avoid replication competent retrovirus (RCR) by split packaging



Packaging cell line e.g. Human embryonic kidney 293T adherent cell line

Vector transduces stem cells without RCR



What is severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID)?

A congenital disease in which babies are born without T lymphocytes

The first disease to be successfully treated with long-term engraftment of donor cells (Gatti 1968)

Multiple genetic causes

IL2RG (X-linked)

ADA (adenosine deaminase)

Without treatment, death in the first year of life of infection

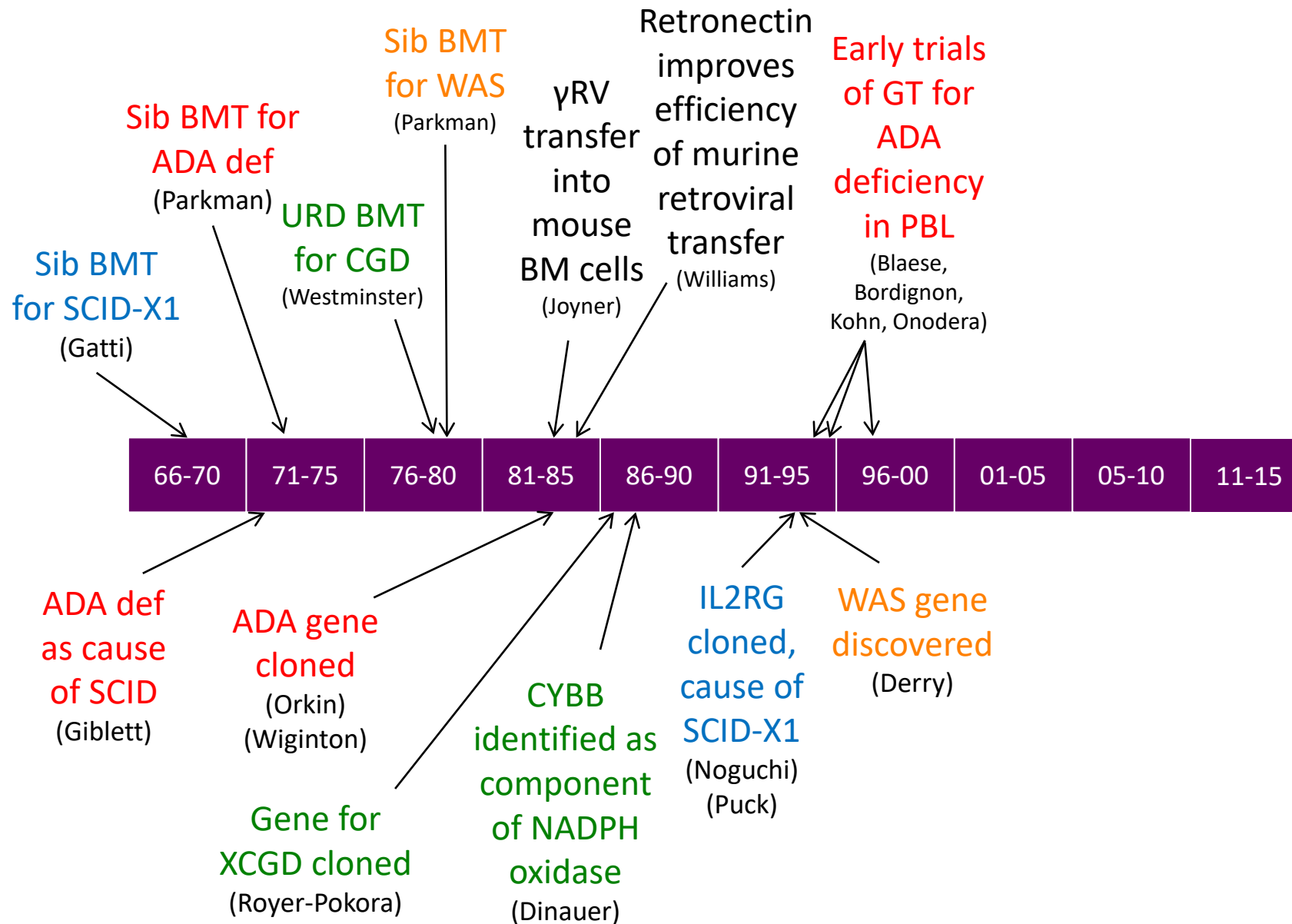
ADA SCID can be partially treated with enzyme replacement therapy which is expensive, non-curative and requires lifelong treatment

Standard treatment is allogeneic HSCT, can be performed without conditioning



David Vetter, boy with X-linked SCID who lived in a bubble (1971-1984) with Dr. Bill Shearer (1937-2018)

The groundwork for successful gene therapy arose from HSCT for immunodeficiency



Gene therapy for primary immunodeficiency has led the way

Disease	Gene	Vector	Year	Groups	Efficacy?
Adenosine deaminase deficient SCID	ADA	γ -RV	2002 2009	Milan UCLA/NIH	Yes
X-linked SCID	IL2RG	γ -RV	2002 2004	Paris, London	Yes

Introduction of low dose conditioning propelled the success of gene therapy for ADA SCID

Year	Reference	Vector	Stop ADA?	Bu dose	N	Significant Gene Marking?	Off ADA?
1995	Bordignon et al	γ -RV	No	0	2	No	No
1995	Kohn et al	γ -RV	No	0	3	No	No
1996	Hoogerbrugge et al	γ -RV	No	0	3	No	No
2012	Candotti et al	γ -RV	No	0	4	No	No

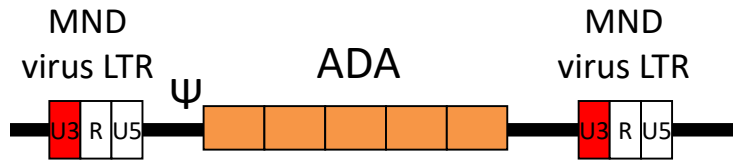
Rivat et al Hum Gene Therapy 2012, includes personal communications

Introduction of low dose conditioning propelled the success of gene therapy for ADA SCID

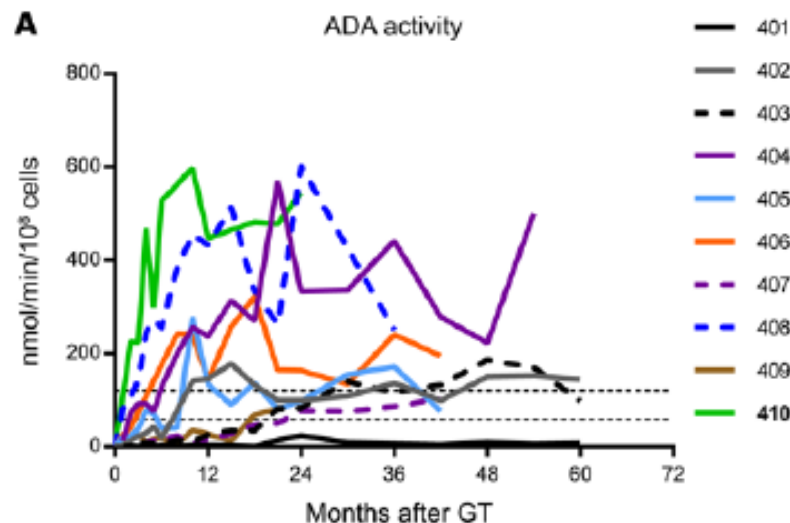
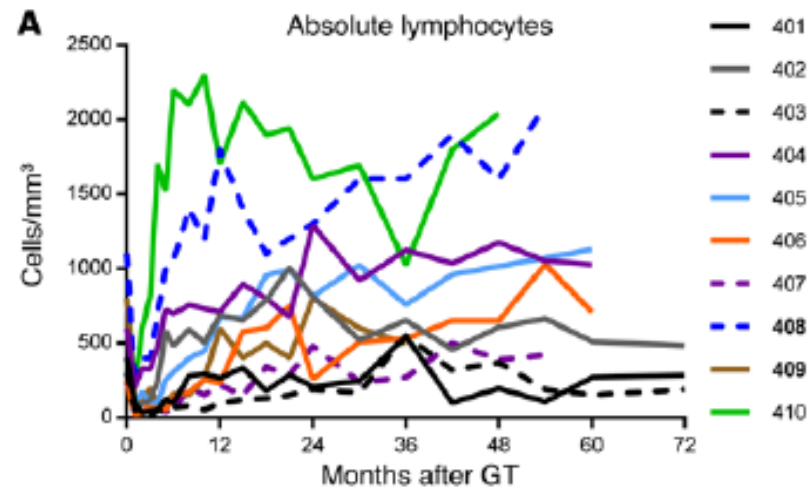
Year	Reference	Vector	Stop ADA?	Bu dose	N	Significant Gene Marking?	Off ADA?
1995	Bordignon et al	γ -RV	No	0	2	No	No
1995	Kohn et al	γ -RV	No	0	3	No	No
1996	Hoogerbrugge et al	γ -RV	No	0	3	No	No
2012	Candotti et al	γ -RV	No	0	4	No	No
2002	Aiuti et al	γ -RV	Yes	4 mg/kg	2	Yes	1/2
2009	Aiuti et al	γ -RV	Yes	4 mg/kg	18	Yes	15/18
2011b	Gaspar et al	γ -RV	Yes	4 mg/kg (or Mel)	8	Yes	4/8
2012	Candotti et al	γ -RV	Yes	4 mg/kg	14	Yes	10/14

Rivat et al Hum Gene Therapy 2012, includes personal communications

Gammaretroviral gene therapy for ADA SCID is safe and effective



10 pts received with autologous CD34+ BM cells transduced with MND-ADA-γRV after 4 mg/kg busulfan



- 100% survival
- Excellent T cell reconstitution
- 9 of 10 off enzyme replacement
- 3 of 10 off of IVIG
- No gene therapy related SAE

First generation gene therapy for X-linked SCID (SCID-X1) was efficacious but caused insertional oncogenesis

Gammaretroviral vector (with viral enhancers) (Paris, London)



- Viral promoter (Moloney leukemia virus) with strong expression of the IL2RG transgene
- Transduced autologous CD34+ bone marrow cells, infused without conditioning
- Excellent T cell reconstitution, 17/18 long-term survivors, no opportunistic infections

Safety concerns

Insertional oncogenesis:

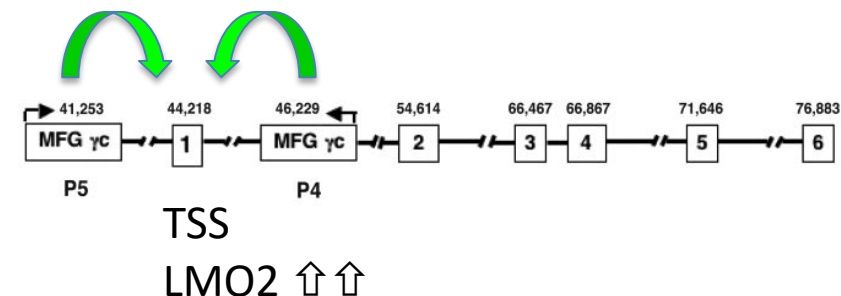
5/20 developed T cell leukemia at 2-5.6 years post-GT

1/20 developed T cell lymphoma at 15 years post-GT

1 patient died of leukemia

5 patients treated and in remission with normal T cells

Occurred due to insertion near and activation of oncogene (LMO2 in 5 of 6 cases)



Hacein-Bey-Abina et al Science 2003; Hacein-Bey-Abina et al JCI 2008; Howe et al JCI 2008; Hacein-Bey-Abina et al NEJM 2010; Gaspar et al Sci Transl Med 2011

Gammaretroviral vectors were associated with insertional oncogenesis in multiple diseases

Disease	Gene	Vector	Year	Groups	Efficacy?	Safety?
Adenosine deaminase deficient SCID	ADA	γ -RV	2002 2009	Milan UCLA/NIH	Yes	Yes
X-linked SCID	IL2RG	γ -RV	2002 2004	Paris, London	Yes	No 6/20 ALL 1/20 T lymphoma
X-linked chronic granulomatous disease	CYBB	γ -RV	2006	Frankfurt	Transient (silencing)	No 2/2 MDS
Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome	WAS	γ -RV	2010	Hannover	Yes	No 7/9 ALL/AML

Possible strategies to avoid insertional oncogenesis

Strategies

Gene
addition

Modify vector

promoter

Change vector class

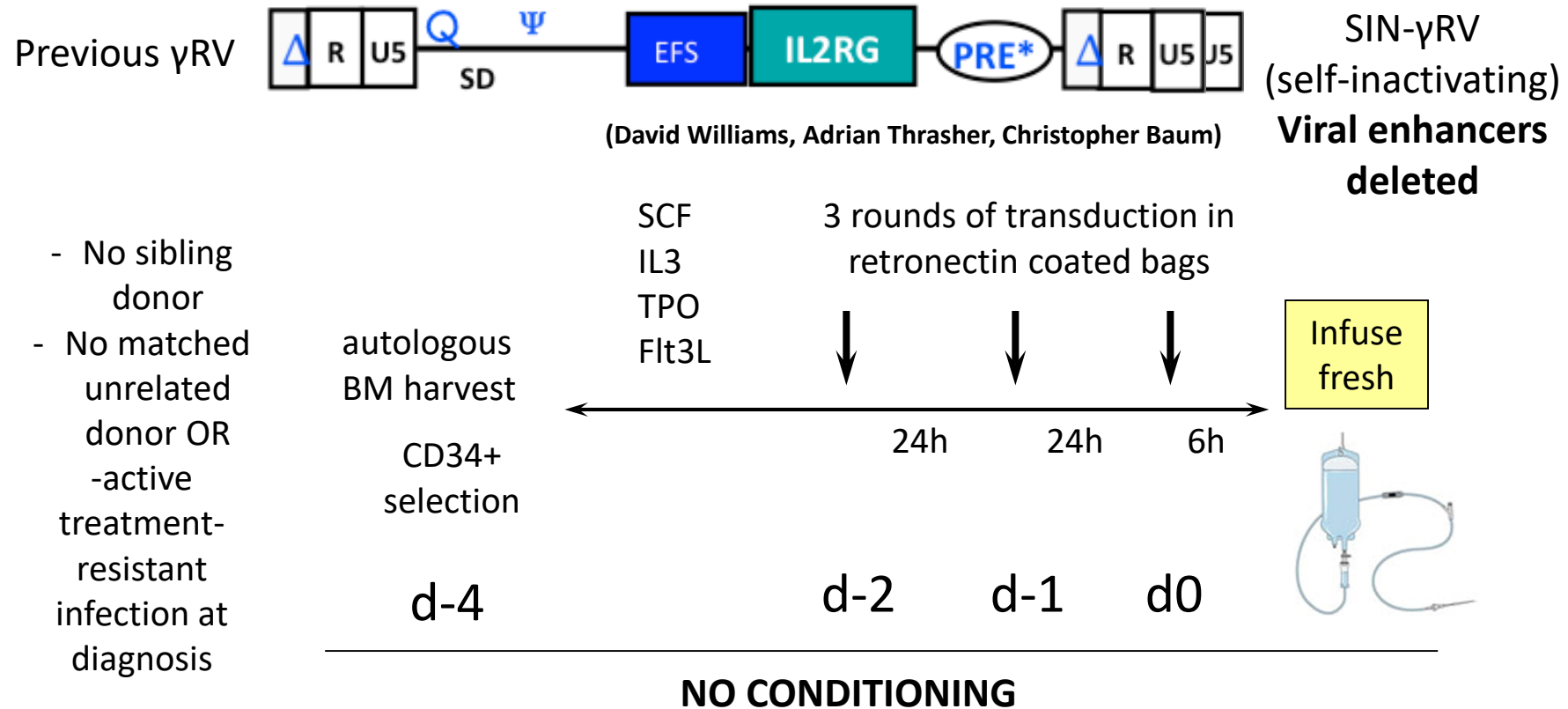
- **delete strong enhancers**

- **use weak cellular**

- insulators

- lentiviral vector

Can modification of the SCID-X1 vector retain efficacy and improve safety?



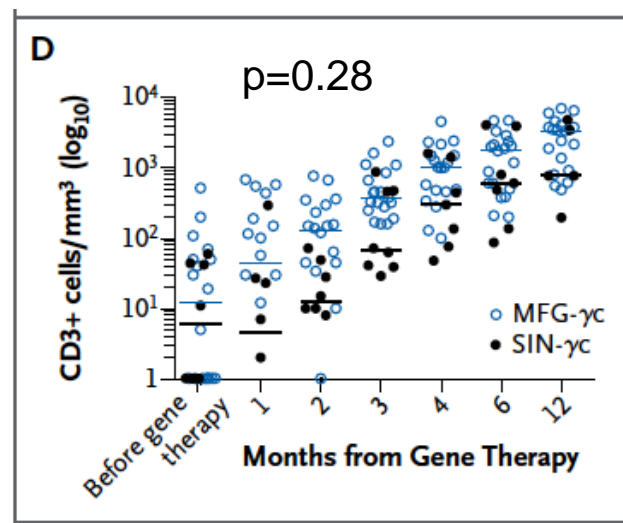
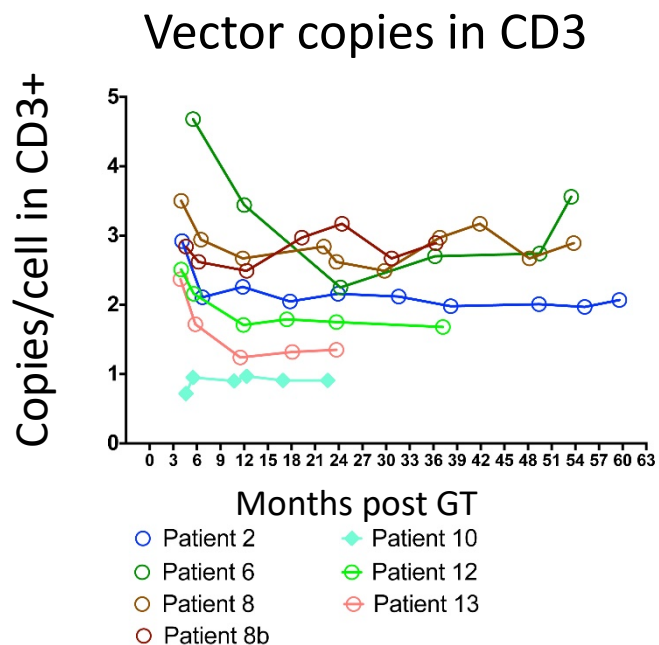
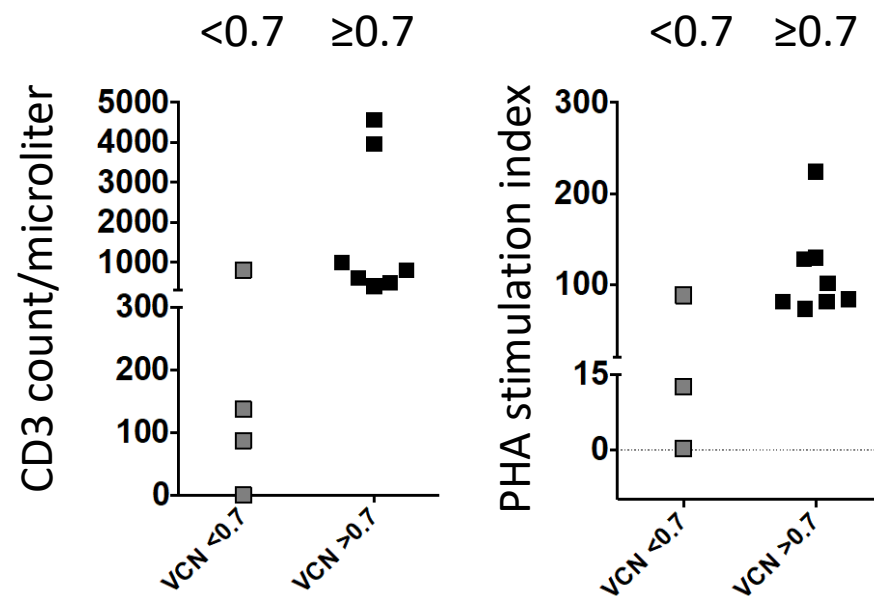
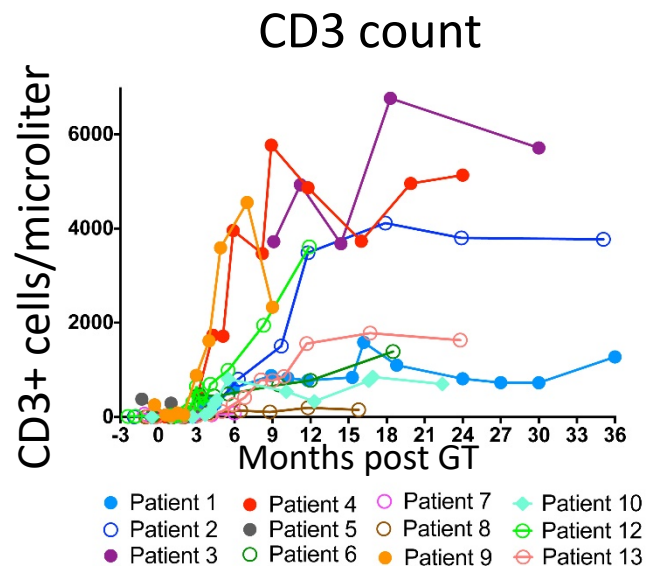
Boston (Pai, Notarangelo), **Los Angeles** (Kohn, DeOliveira), **Cincinnati** (Marsh, Malik), **Paris** (Hacein-Bey-Abina, Cavazzana, Fischer), **London** (Thrasher, Gaspar)

IND #14067, Sponsor David A. Williams, NCT01129544

Funding: NIAID U01-AI087628 (Williams/Pai)

Vector produced by Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

Robust reconstitution equivalent to previous vector

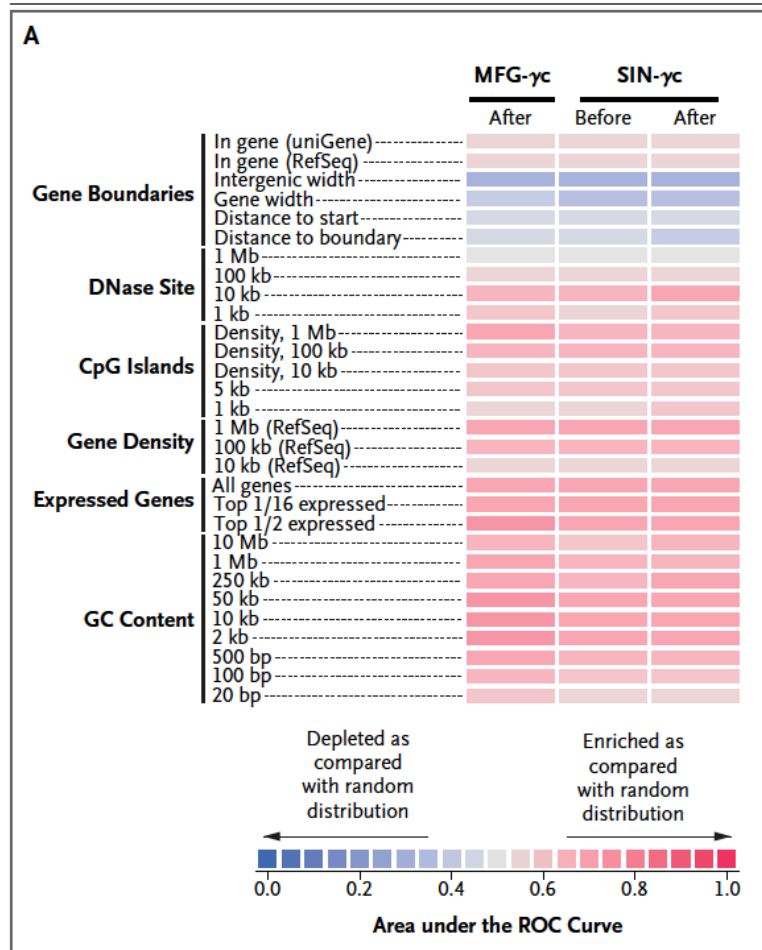


10/13 patients
successful

Kinetics of T cell
reconstitution
similar between
vectors

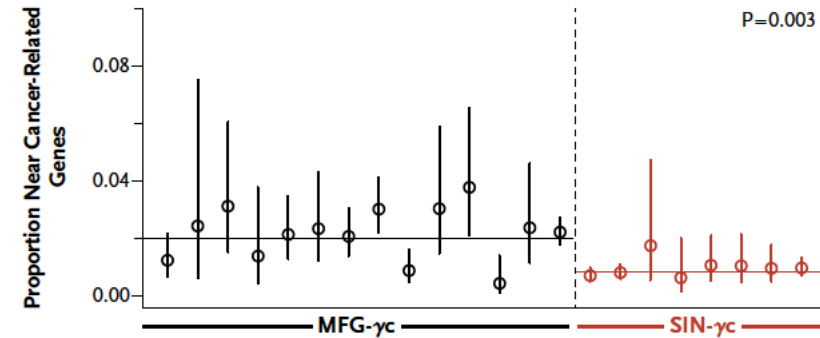
SIN-γRV appears to be safer than γRV

Insertion pattern of SIN-γRV
still typical for γRV

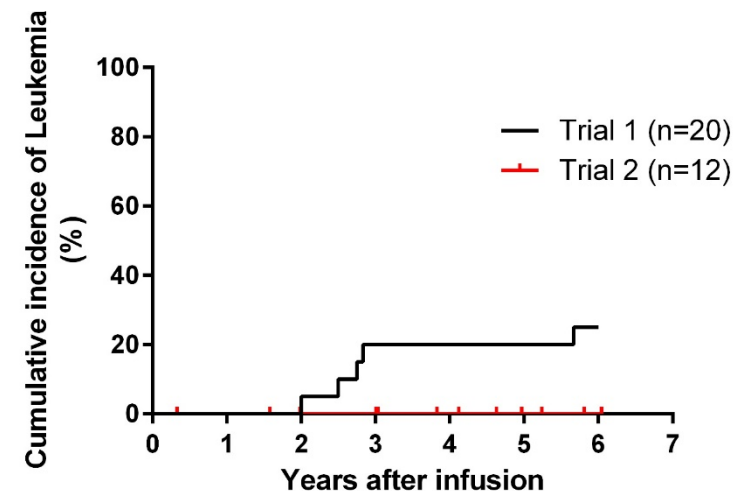


Frederic Bushman, University of Pennsylvania
(studies of all sites including European patients)

Proportion of insertions near cancer-causing genes decreased in SIN-γRV pts



No leukemias to date, median 6.5y (1.3 to 7.9y)



Hacein-Bey-Abina, Pai et al, NEJM 2014 and updated

Possible strategies to avoid insertional oncogenesis

Strategies

Gene
addition

Modify vector

- self-inactivating format
- use cellular promoter
- insulators

Change vector class

- lentiviral vector

Next generation trials all use lentiviral vectors (US only)

	ADA SCID		X-linked SCID			Wiskott-Aldrich	X-linked CGD
Promoter	EFS		EFS			Human WAS 1.6kB	Chimeric myeloid specific
Codon optimized?	Yes		Yes			No	No
Frozen cells?	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No→Yes
Year open	2013	2016	2011	2012	2017	2011	2014
Centers	UCLA, NIH		NIH	St. Jude, UCSF, Seattle	Boston, UCLA	Boston	UCLA, NIH, Boston
N treated	20	10	8	9	2	5	6
Longest follow-up	~5y	~2y	>5y	~2y	0.5y	5y	2.7y
Efficacy?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oncogenesis?	No	No	No	No	-	No	No

Unpublished data, Kohn, UCLA; Sorrentino, St. Jude/Cowan, UCSF; Pai/Williams, Boston; Malech, NIH

What about gene editing?

Gene editing methods seek to modify or repair endogenous genes, rather than adding a new copy of the relevant gene.

Advantages of editing over addition:

1. Regulation in native context
2. Avoid insertional oncogenesis

Strategy:

Target a double stranded break (DSB) to gene of interest

Repair the break

- with or without a donor template
- using nonhomologous or homologous recombination

Two double stranded break repair pathways

- Non-Homologous End Joining (NHEJ)

- Inaccurate repair
- No donor template required



- Homologous Recombination (HR)

- Accurate repair
- Homologous donor template required



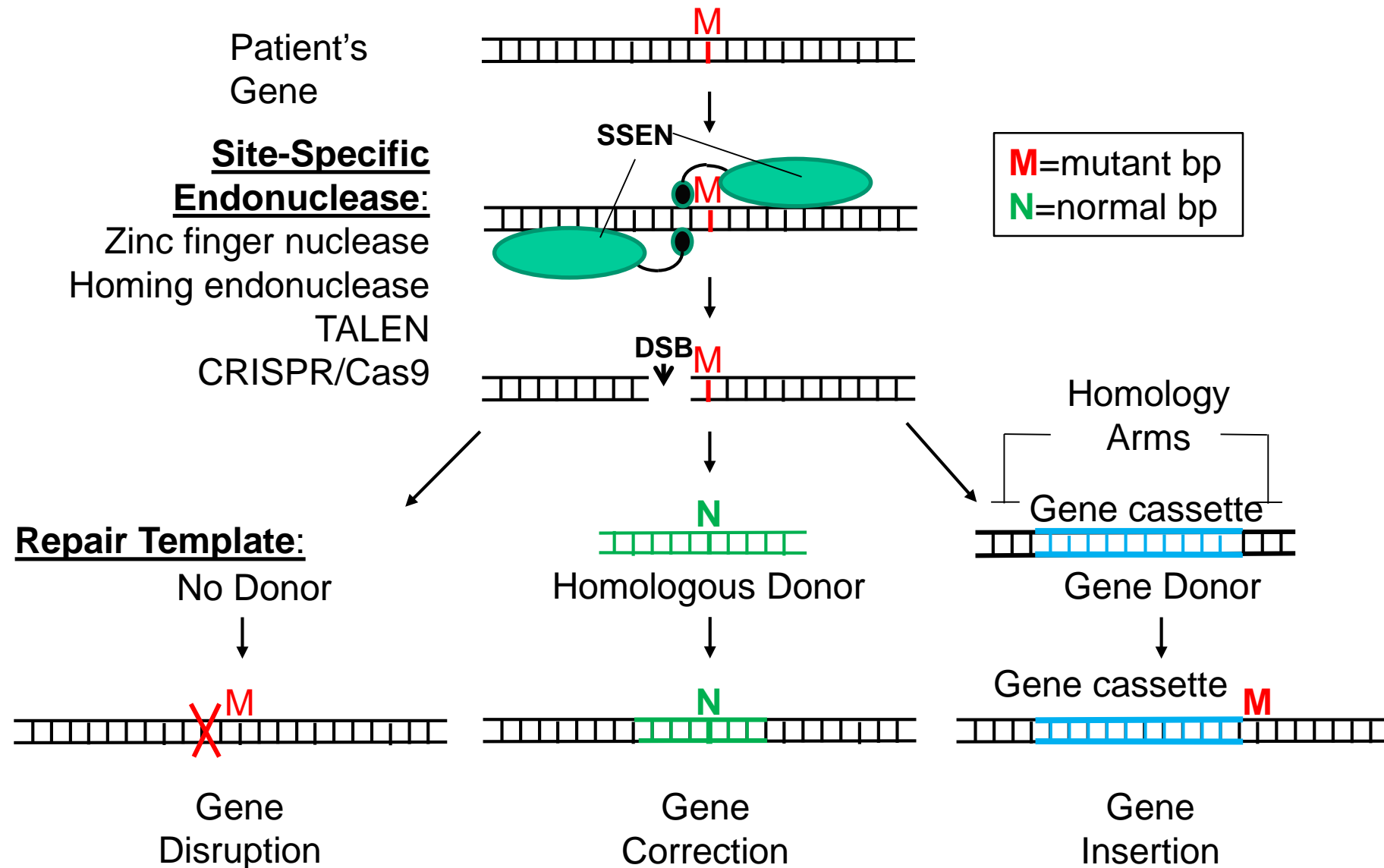
NHEJ:HR ratio depends on:

Cell type

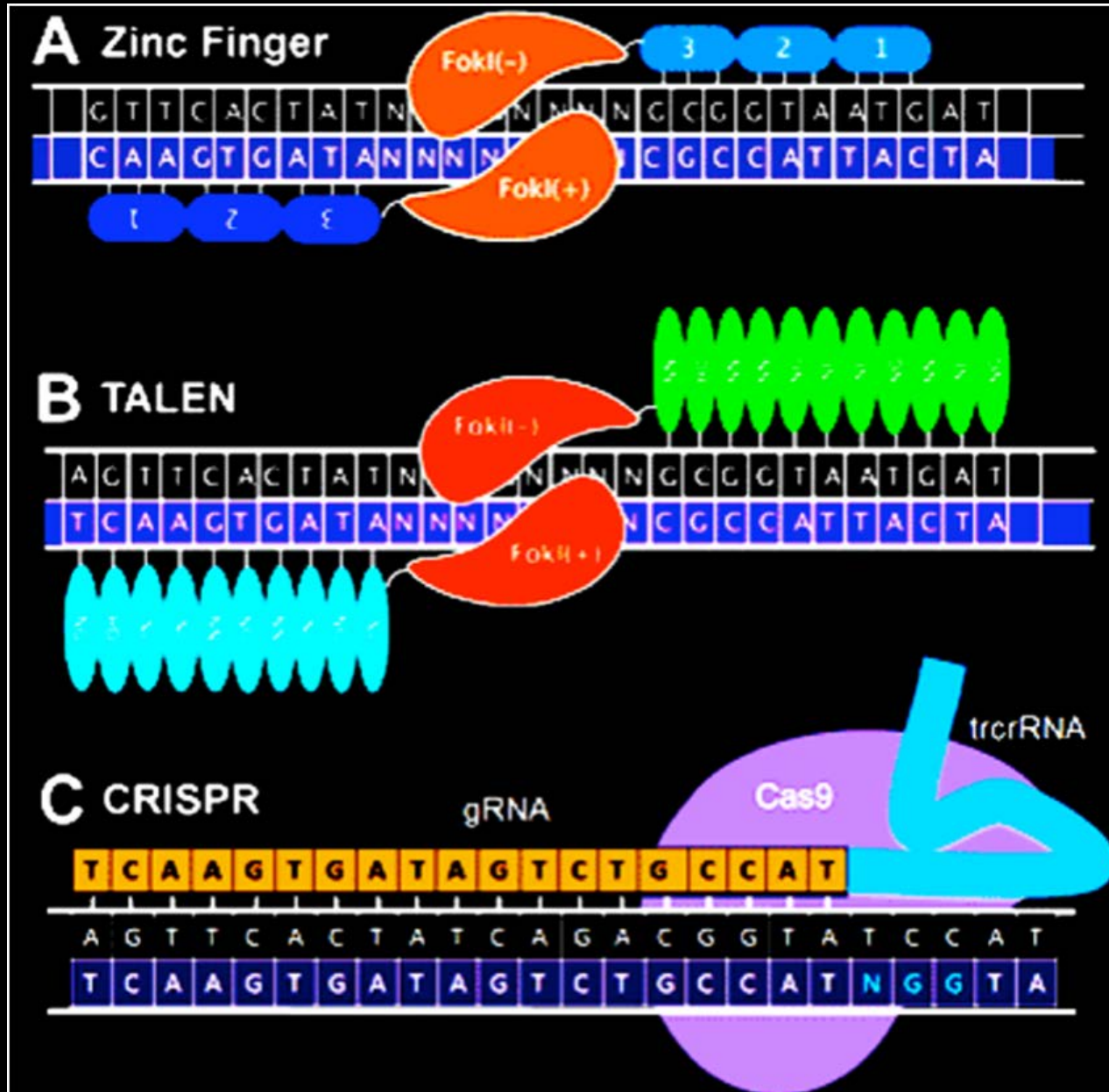
Cell cycle phase

Presence of donor template

Different outcomes of gene repair



ZFN, TALENs and CRISPRs– Oh My!

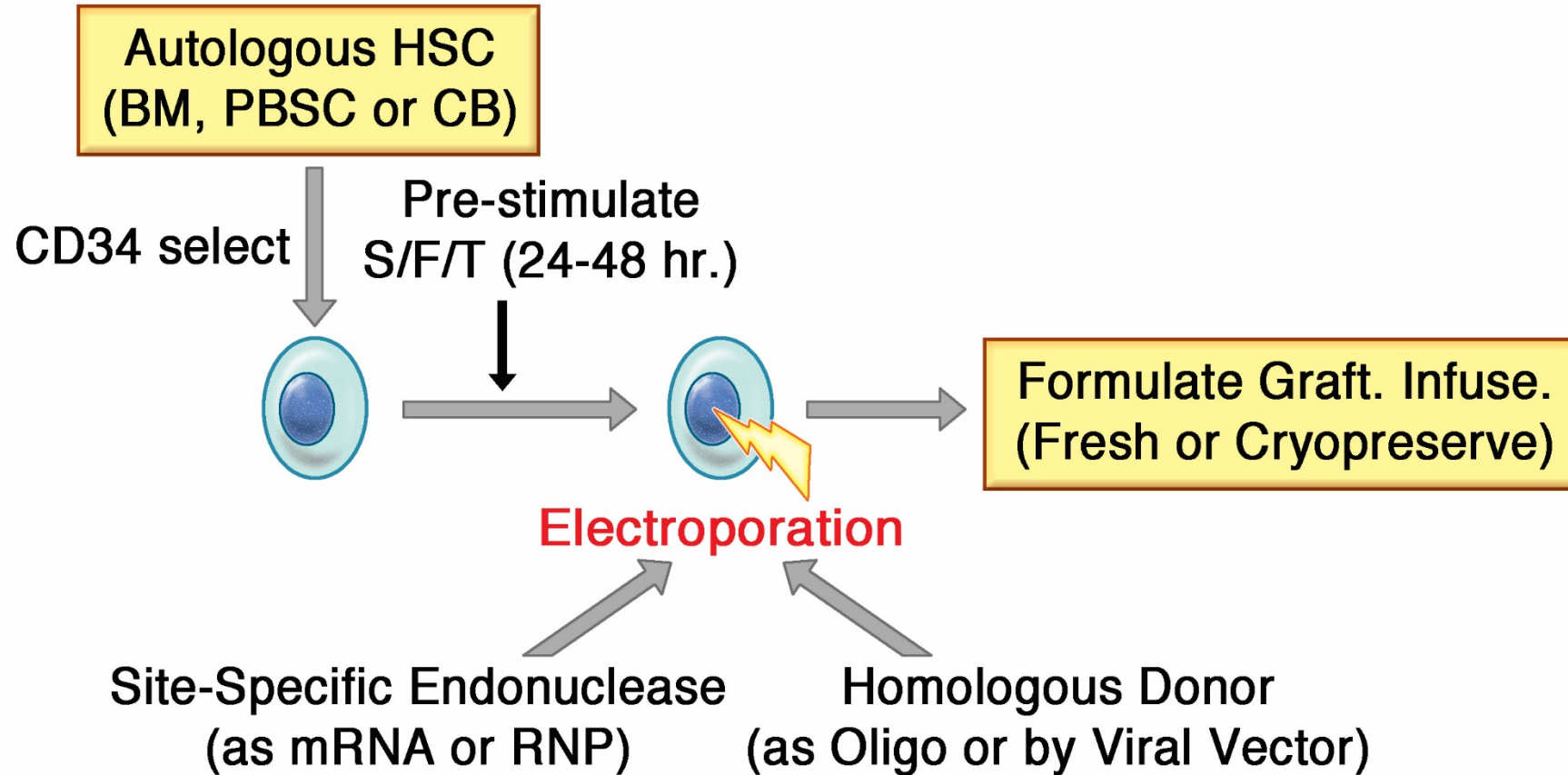


Artificial protein with ZnF array, each recognizing 3-4 nt, connected to FokI nuclease

Artificial protein with TAL effector protein array, each recognizing 1 nt, connected to FokI nuclease

Bacterial system in which the Cas9 protein nuclease is guided to target by bacterial tracrRNA fused to guide RNA (gRNA) with specificity

Site-specific Gene Editing of Autologous Hematopoietic Stem Cells for Gene Therapy



Kohn & Kuo, JACI 2017.

Practical considerations in gene editing

Similar to gene addition

- Efficiency, efficiency, efficiency
- Delivery into appropriate cell type
- Toxicity of the process to HSC, maintaining pluripotency
- Ethical issues of somatic versus germline manipulation

Distinct from gene addition

- ✧ Off target cutting
- ✧ Delivery that is transient yet effective (no integration)
- ✧ Need to deliver both the nuclease and for HR, donor template
- ✧ If strategy is mutation specific, need personalized materials for each patient

On the road to gene therapy as standard care



Principals of gene therapy for transfusion-dependent β -thalassemia and severe sickle cell disease

Financial Disclosure

In accordance with the ACCME® standards for Commercial Support Number 6, my relevant financial relationships are disclosed:

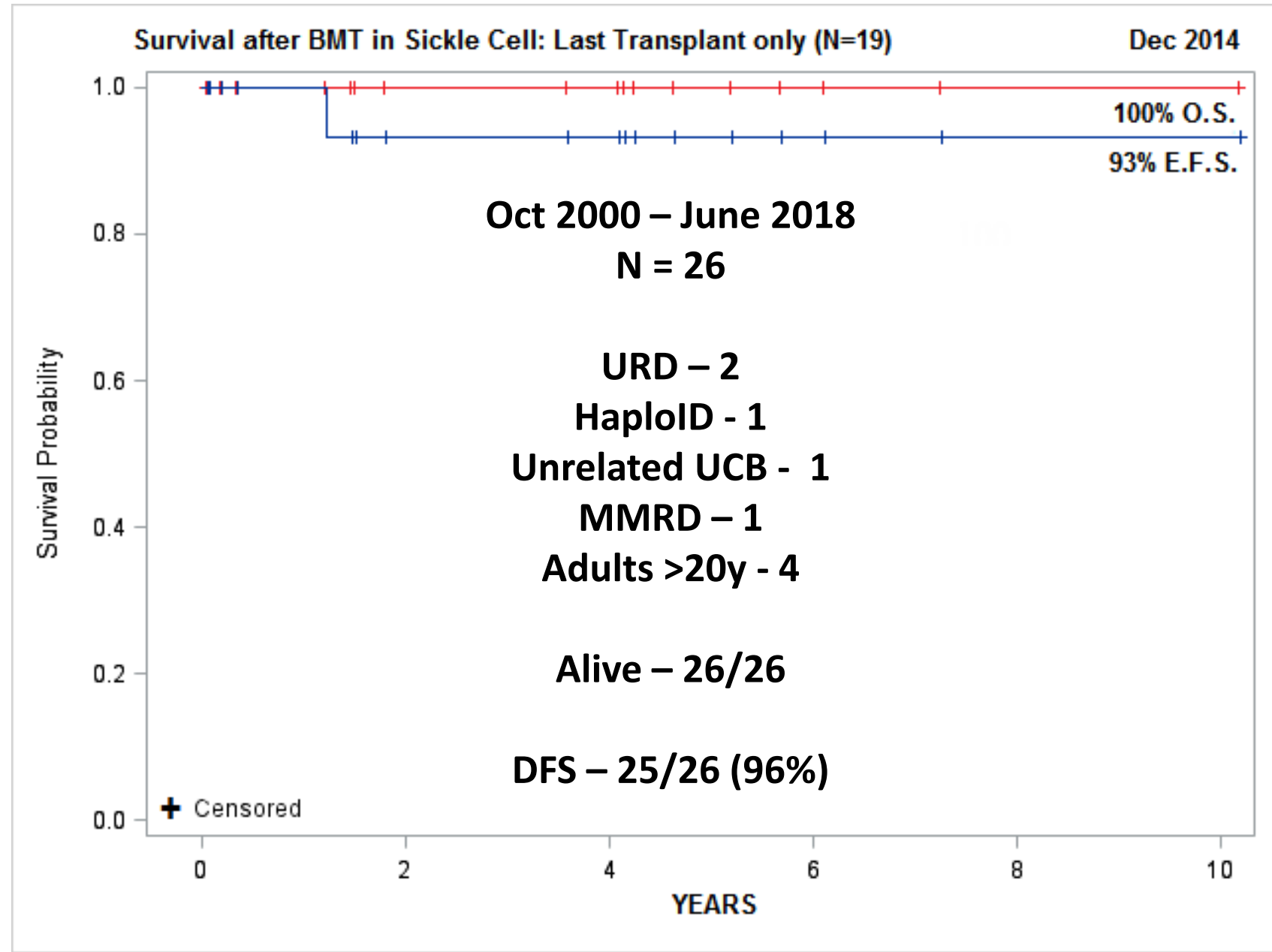
Medical Director:

ViaCord Processing Lab
AllCells, Inc

Consultant:

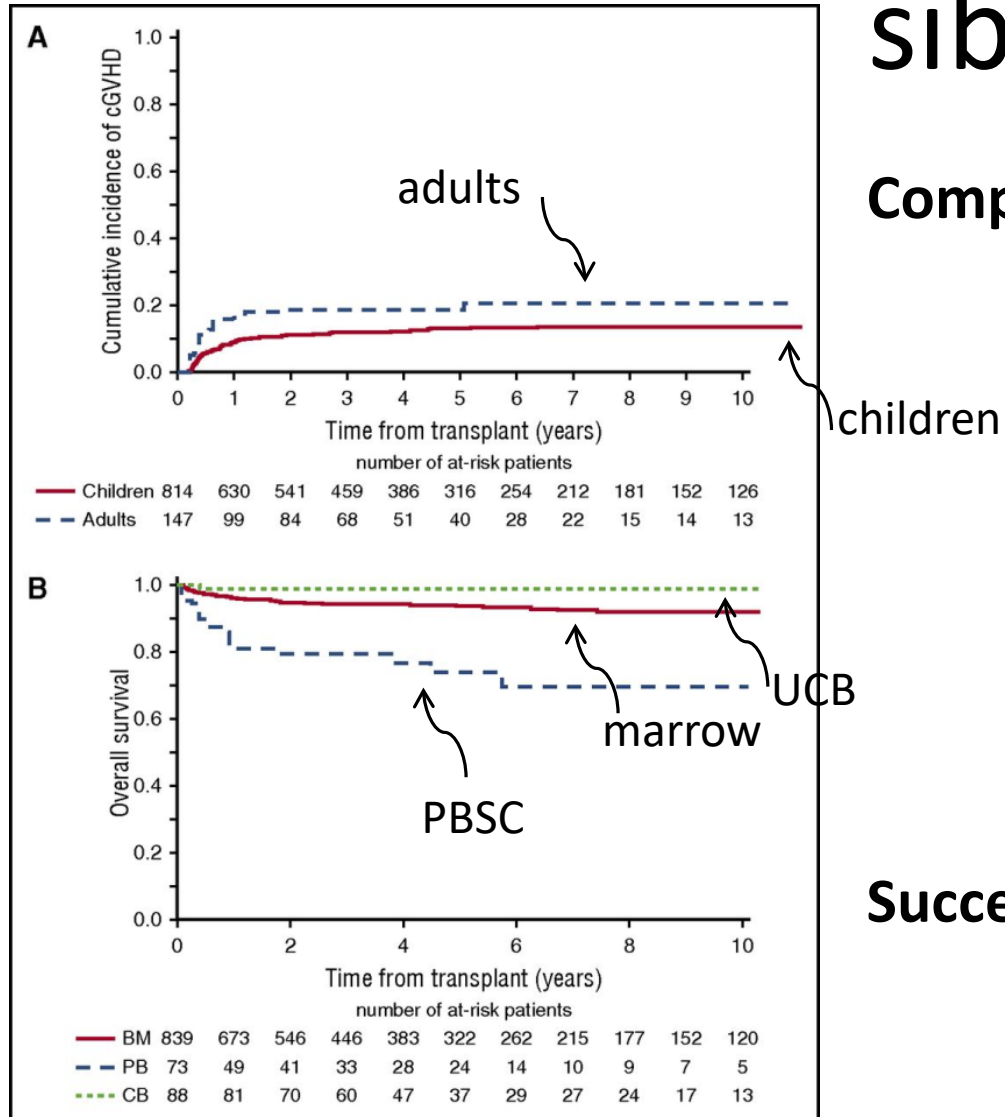
bluebird bio, Inc
Sangamo Biosciences/Bioverativ
Global Blood Therapeutics
TruCode

BMT for SCD at UCSF BCHO



How is a curative outcome depicted – HLA-ID sibling HCT?

Complication incidence – Graft-versus-host disease



Successful outcome – overall survival

Barriers to Transplant for SCD

- Only 18% of families have HLA-ID sibling donor
- Only 19% have well-matched unrelated donor
- Clinicians do not refer patients because of GVHD and risks of dying/long-term toxicity
- The problem of graft rejection/recurrent SCD has not been eliminated, especially in mismatched donor HCT

'Genomic' therapies for hgb disorders

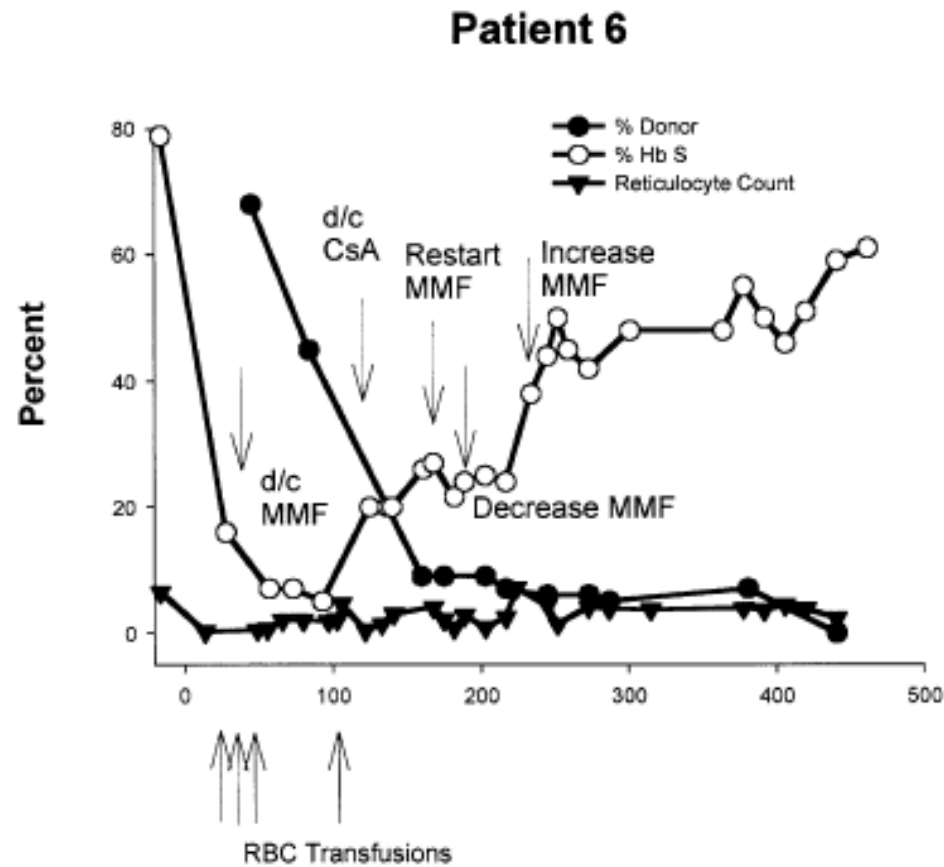
- Gene addition therapy (anti-sickling β -globin or γ -globin) in autologous HCT
- Gene editing for γ -globin expression in autologous HCT
- Gene editing for sickle allele correction in autologous HCT
- In vivo gene editing

Curative therapies – fraction of ‘corrected’ HSCs

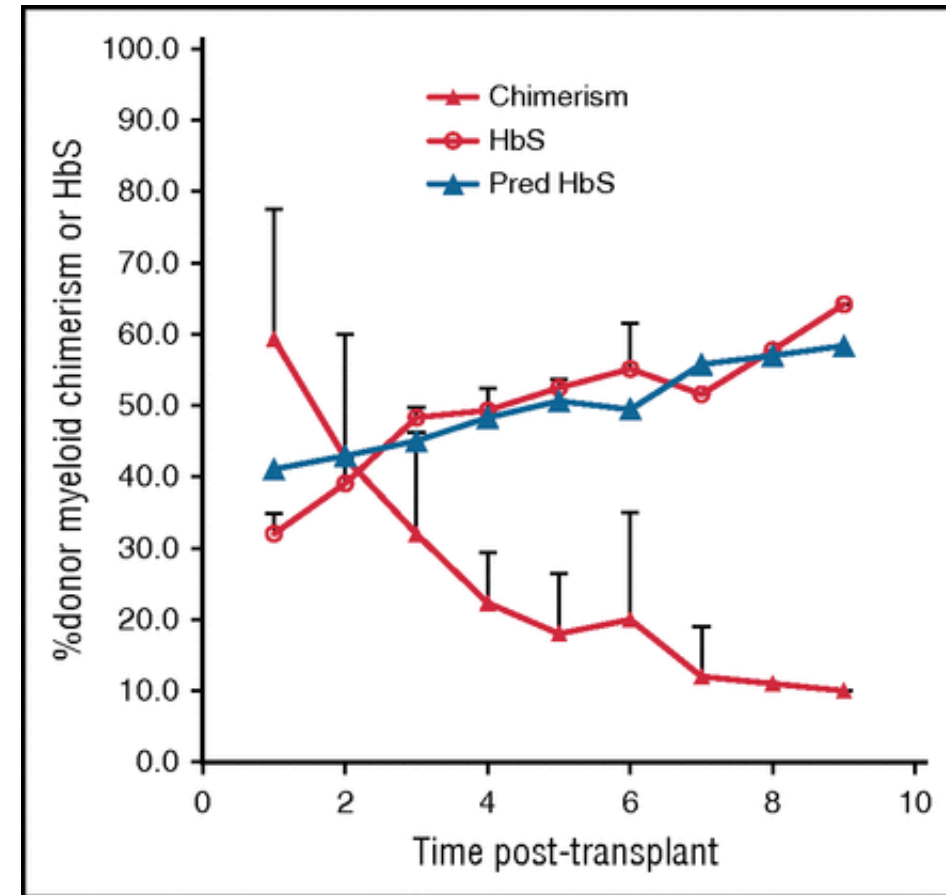
- After allogeneic HCT, stable mixed hematopoietic chimerism is sufficient to establish a curative effect
- Benchmark of >20-25% donor myeloid chimerism has been suggested, but there is inter-individual variability
- Ideally, fraction of corrected HSPCs might be even higher

Fitzhugh CD, et al Blood 130:1946, 2017
Abraham A, et al BBMT 12:2178, 2017

Curative therapies – stable mixed chimerism after allo-HCT

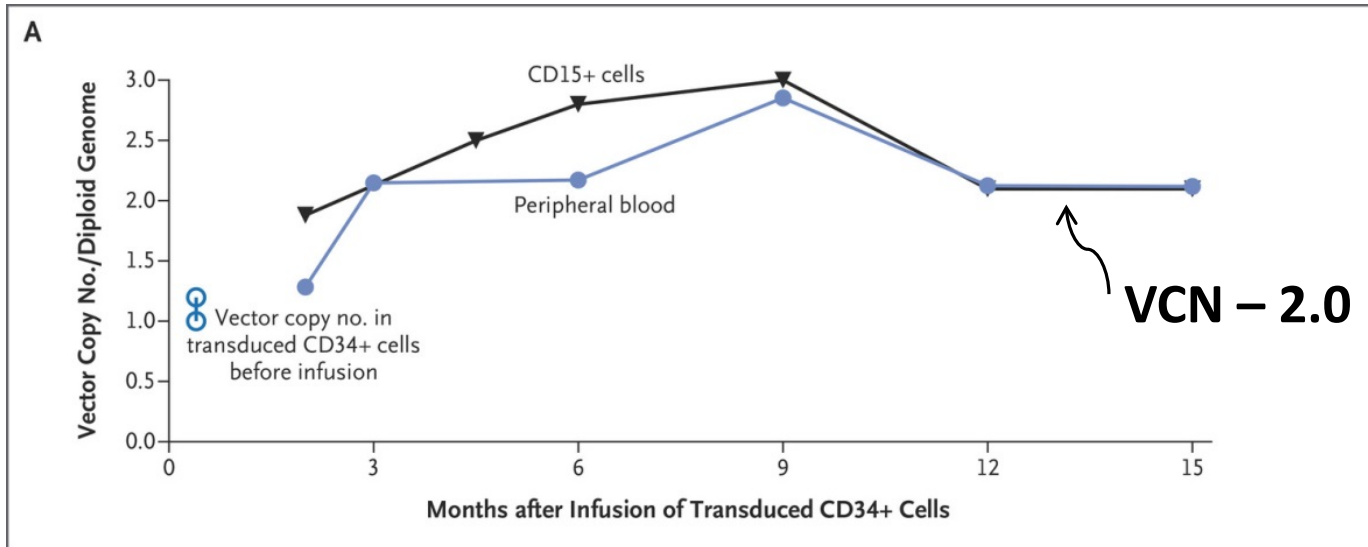


Iannone R, et al. BBMT.
2003;9(8):519-28.

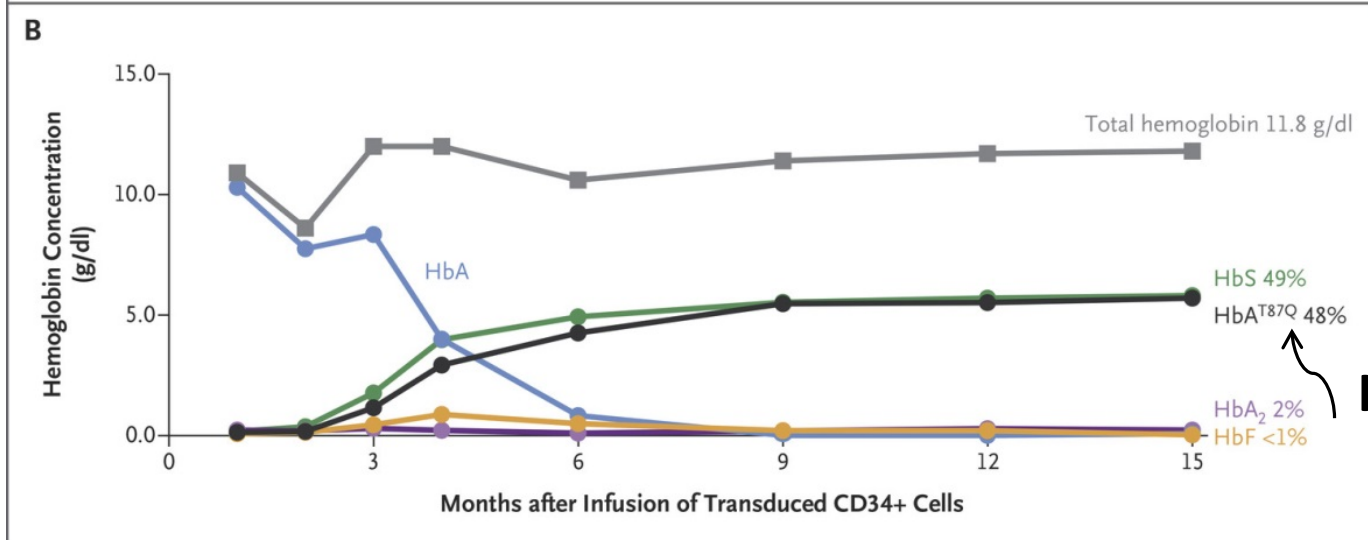


Fitzhugh CD, et al Blood 130:1946, 2017

How a curative outcome is depicted – Gene therapy



Avg vector copy number (VCN) is surrogate for fraction HSCs transduced



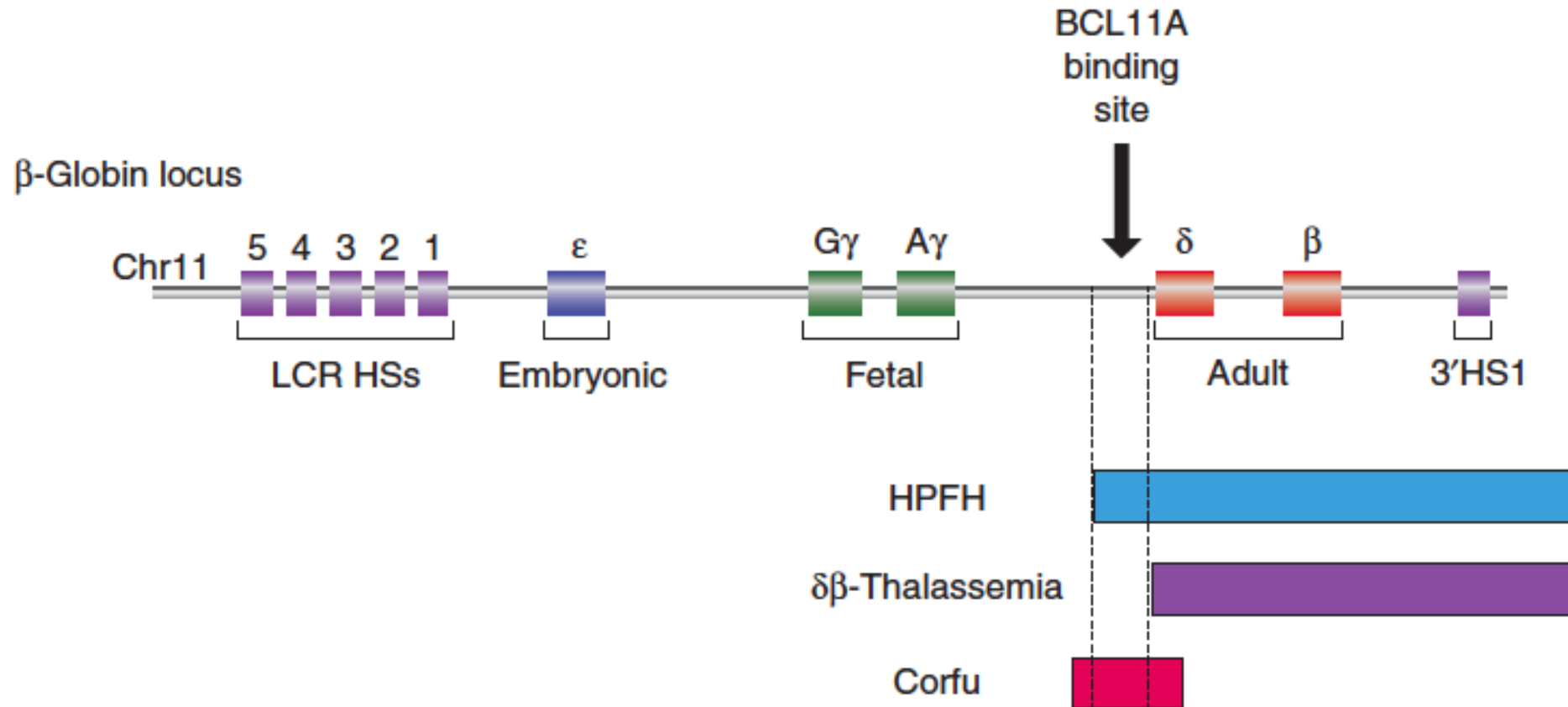
Dilution of HbS by 50%

HbA^{T87Q} ~50%

Modulators of HbF expression

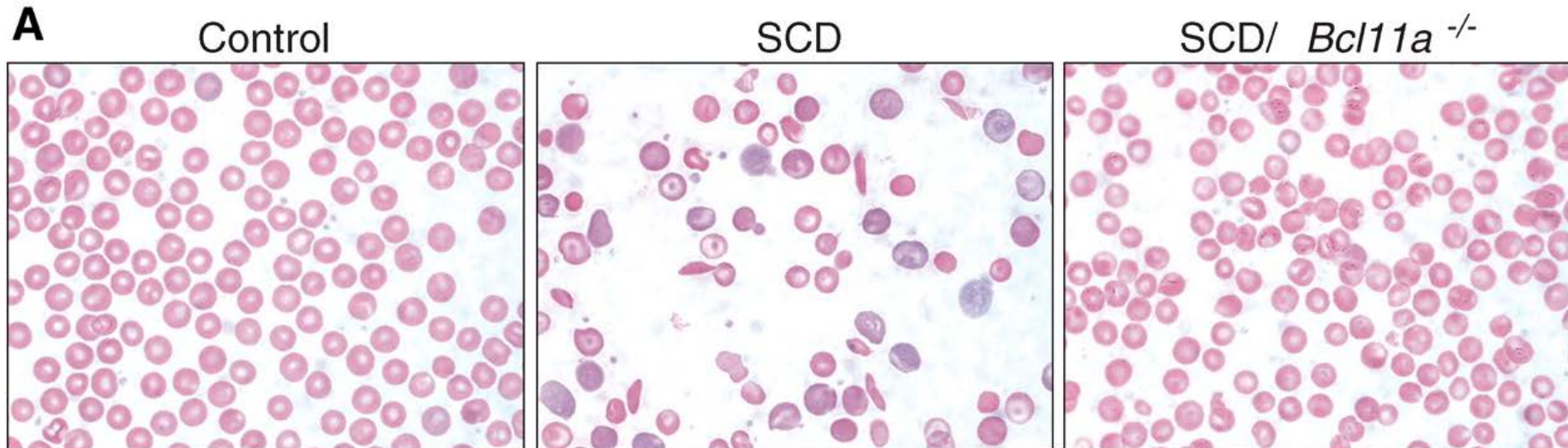
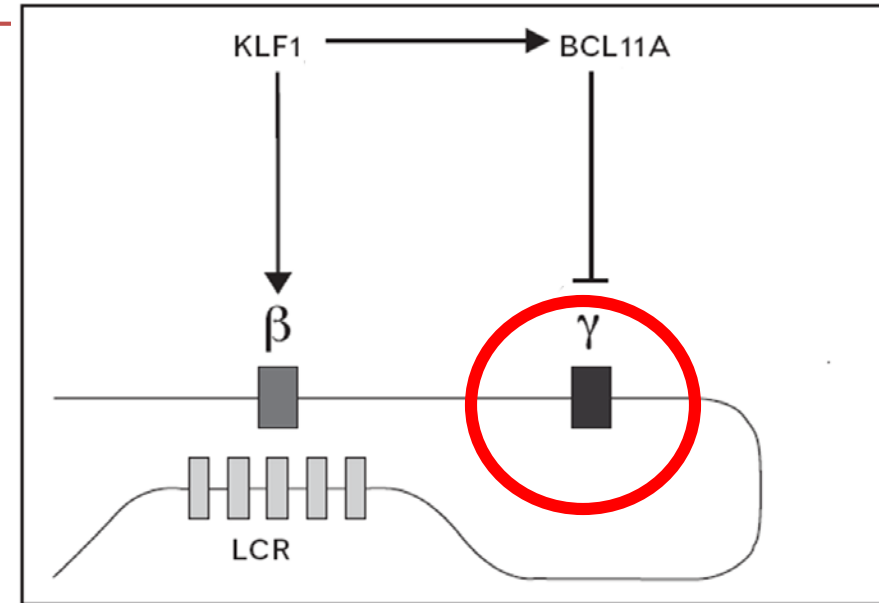
GWAS observations

1. β -globin locus (chromo 11)
2. HBS1L-MYB intergenic region (chromo 6)
3. **BCL11a (chromo 2)**

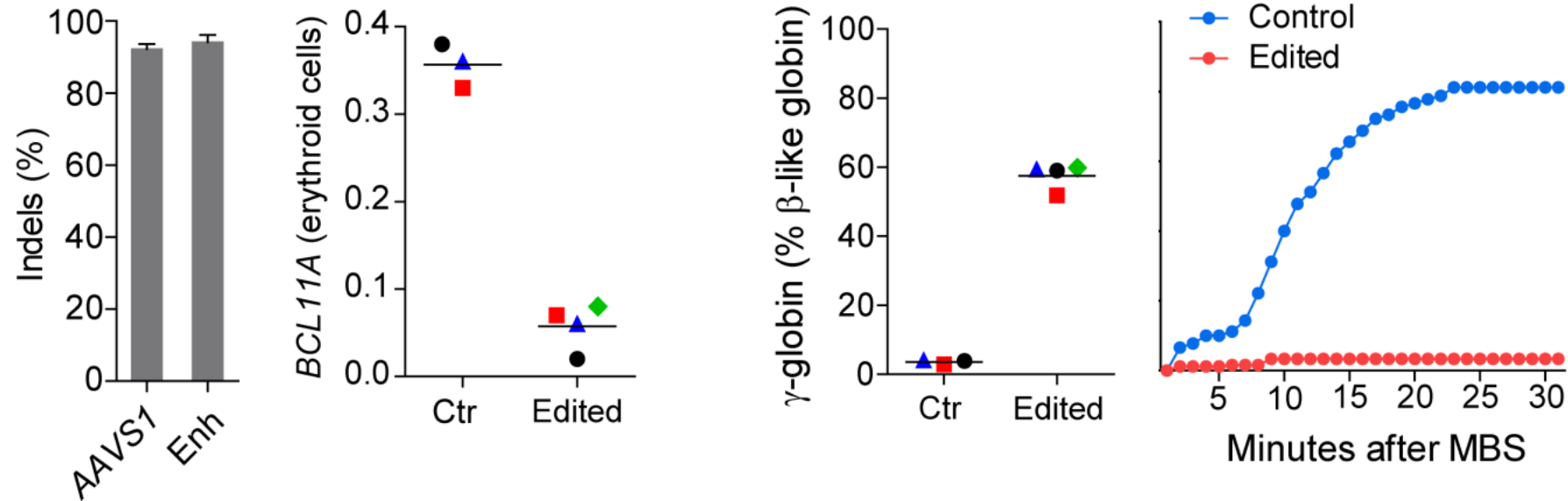


BCL11A is an epistatic suppressor fetal Hb

Data from: Xu J, et al. Correction of sickle cell disease in adult mice by interference with fetal hemoglobin silencing. *Science*. 2011 334:993-6.



How is a curative outcome depicted – Hb F induction after gene editing?



What is the HbF and F-cell induction target?

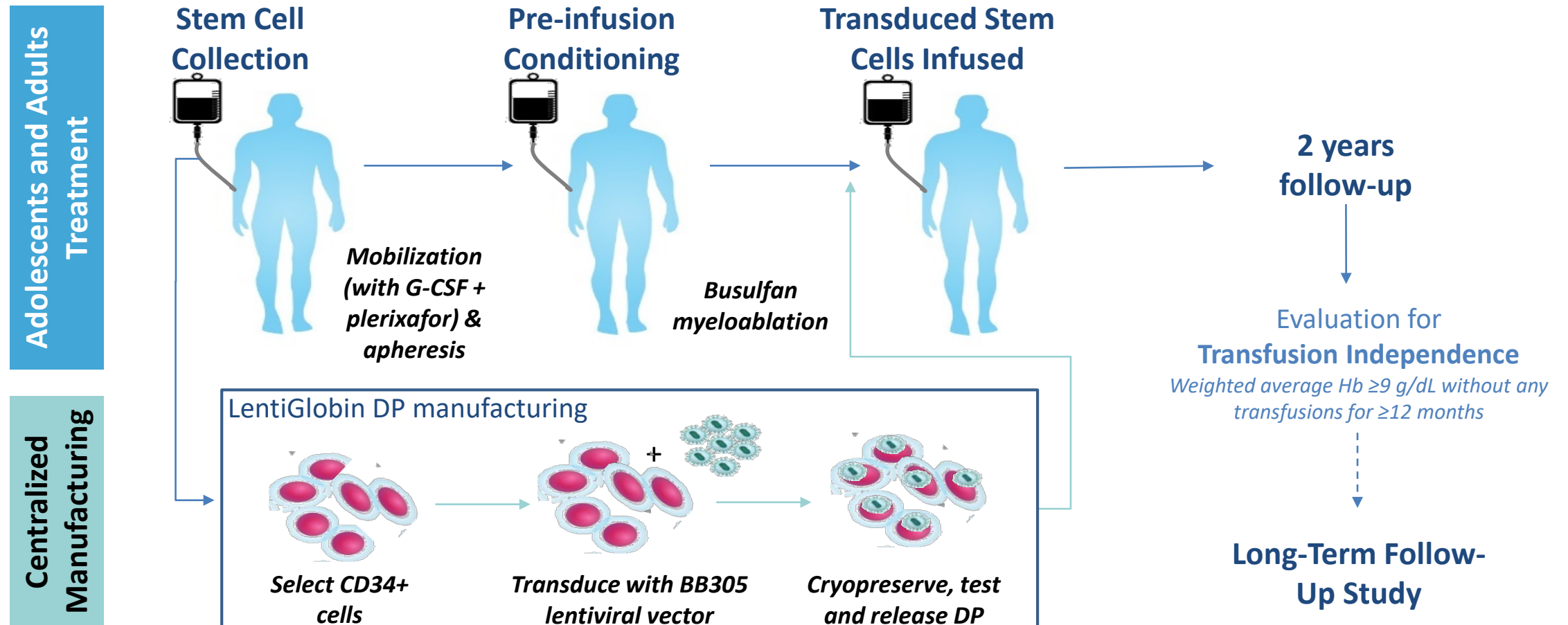
Curative therapies – VCN

- After vector transduction, VCN and % transduced HPSCs directly proportional
- VCN of 0.5 – 1 corresponds to 20-30% HSPC transduction
- Stochastic nature of HSPC contribution to erythropoiesis challenges a direct prediction
- However, VCN and %transduction are important endpoints that should be tracked in the short- and long-term

Thompson AA et al NEJM 378:1479, 2018

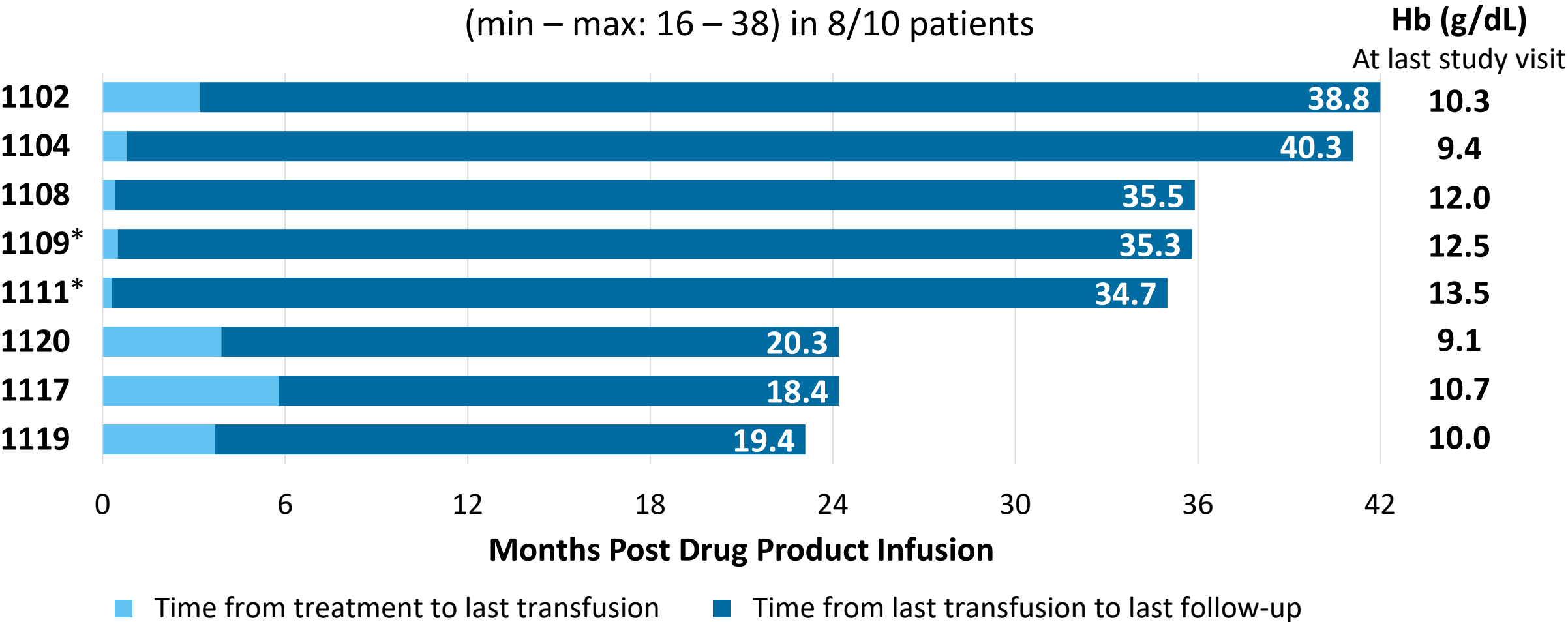
LentiGlobin gene therapy for transfusion-dependent β -thalassemia

LentiGlobin gene therapy contains autologous CD34+ HSCs transduced ex vivo with the BB305 lentiviral vector encoding β -globin with a T87Q amino acid substitution



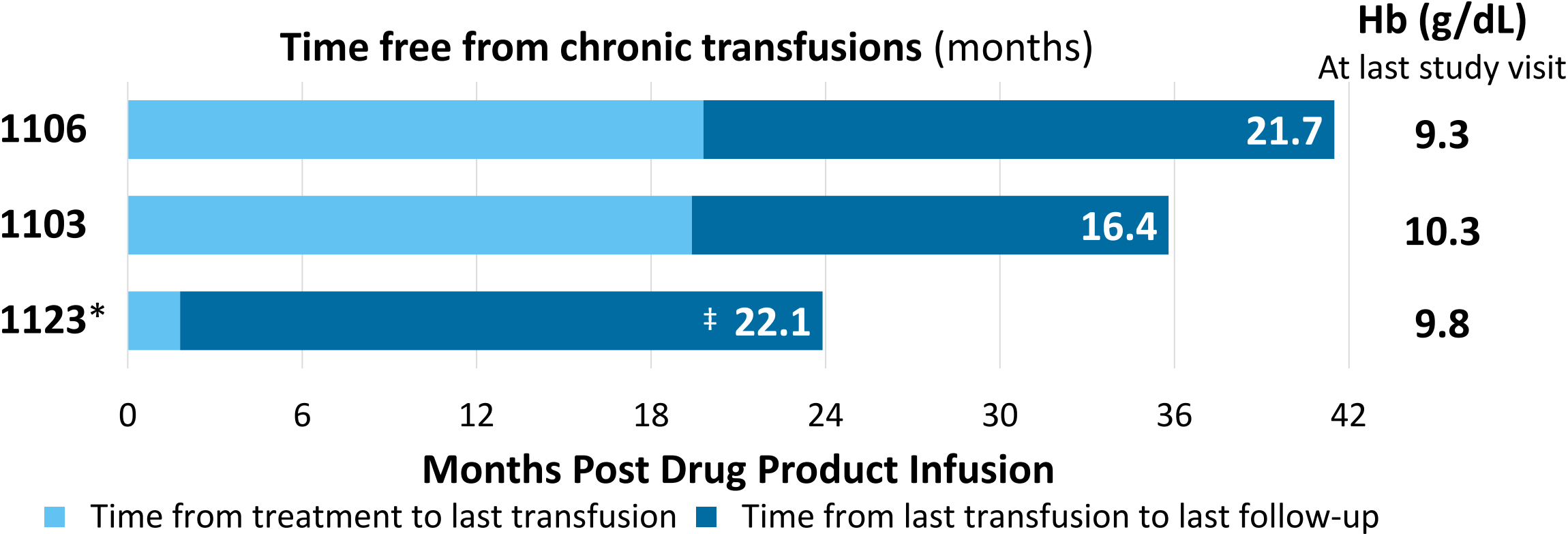
HGB-204: 8/10 patients with non-β⁰/β⁰ genotypes achieved and maintain transfusion independence

Median duration of transfusion independence to date of 33 months
(min – max: 16 – 38) in 8/10 patients



*Indicates male patients. Transfusion independence is defined as weighted average Hb ≥9 g/dL without any RBC transfusions for ≥12 months. Hb, hemoglobin
Rasko, et al. ISCT-EU 2018. Abstract 1.

HGB-204: 3/8 patients with β^0/β^0 genotypes are free from chronic transfusions

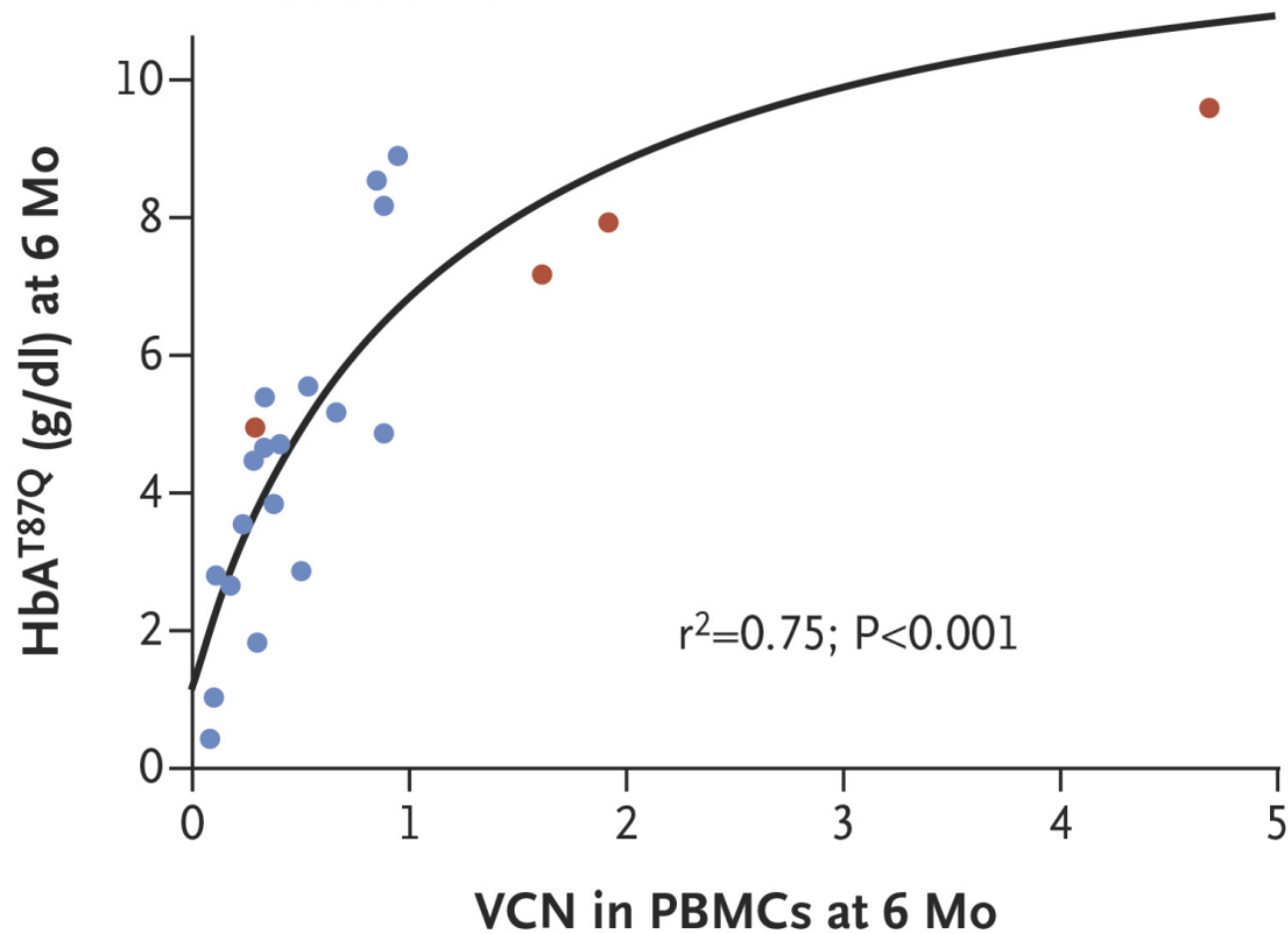


Patients 1103 and 1123 achieved transfusion independence with a duration to date of 14 and 16 months, respectively

* Indicates male patient
‡ Patient had a single transfusion for an acute event of cat scratch disease
Transfusion independence is defined as weighted average Hb ≥ 9 g/dL without any RBC transfusions for ≥ 12 months. Hb, hemoglobin
Rasko, et al. ISCT-EU 2018. Abstract 1.

Curative therapies – VCN

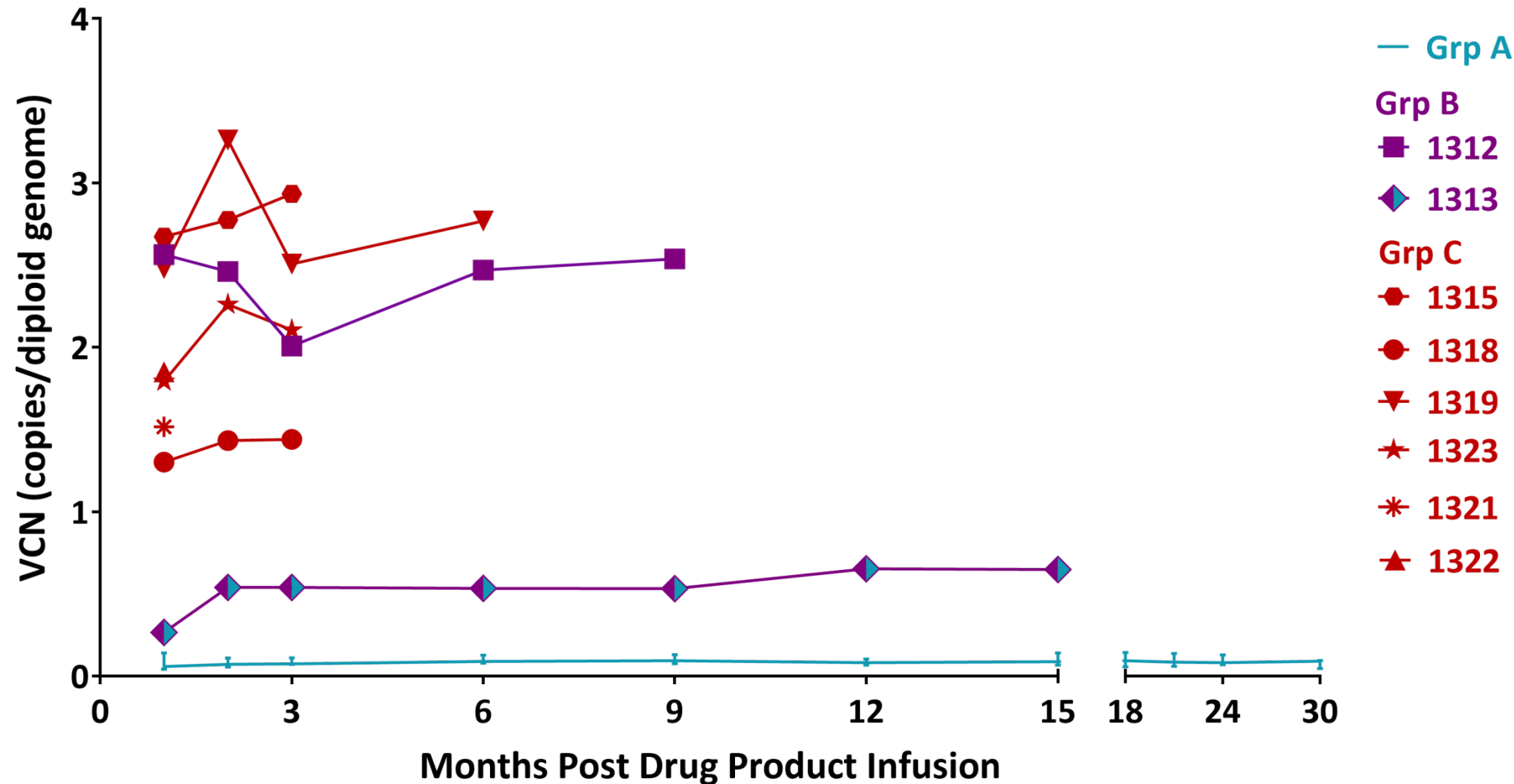
Correlation between Blood HbA^{T87Q} Level and VCN in PBMCs at 6 Mo



Blue dots: US/Austr/Thai
Red dots: France

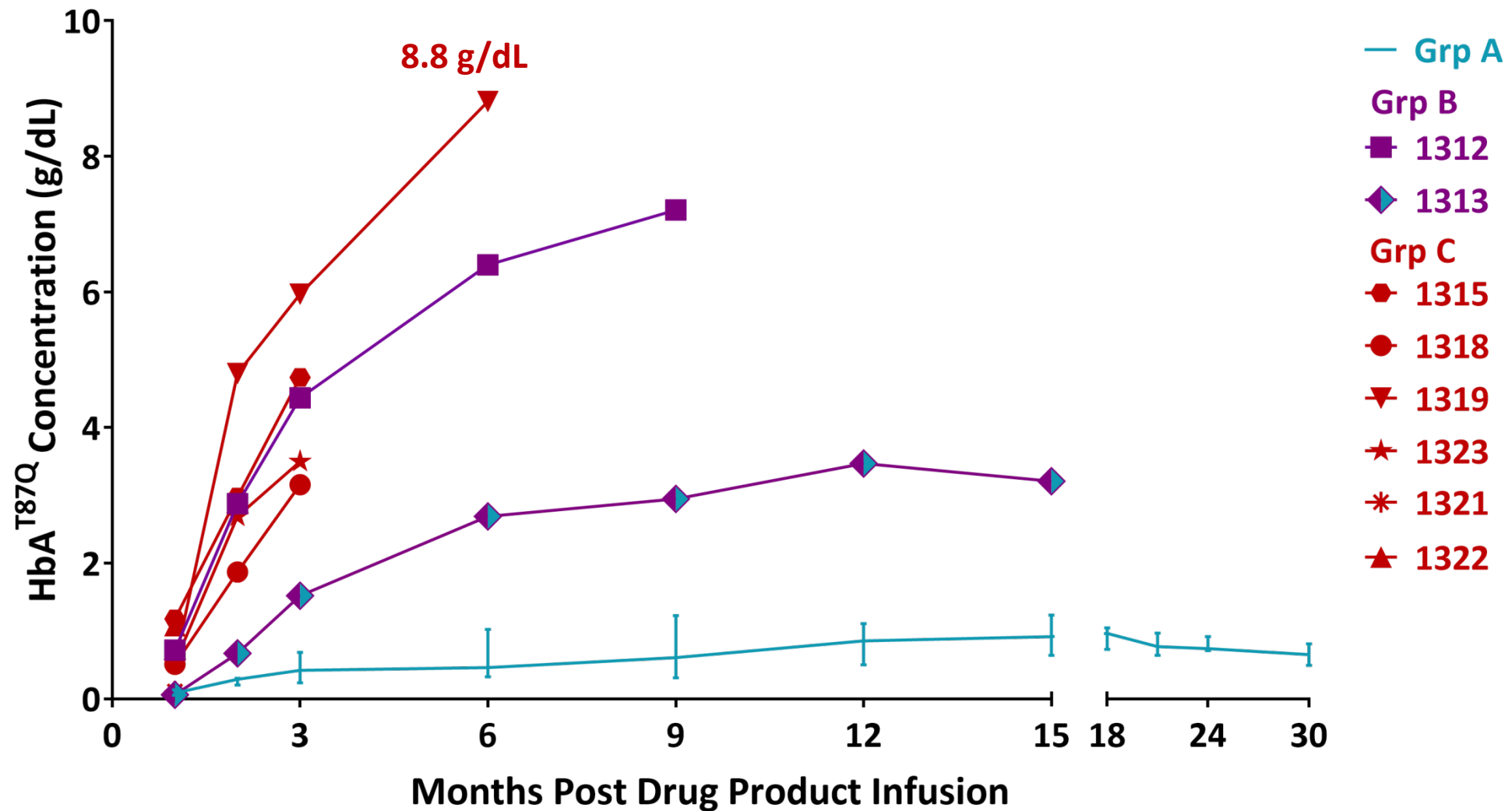
Thompson AA et al NEJM 378:1479, 2018

Peripheral blood VCN is higher in patients in Group B and C



For Group A patients, medians (Q1, Q3) depicted; Group A patients with month 30 study visit (N=3)
VCN, vector copy number (vector copies/diploid genome)
Kanter, et al. EHA 2018. Abstract S836.

Patients in Group B and C demonstrate higher HbA^{T87Q} production

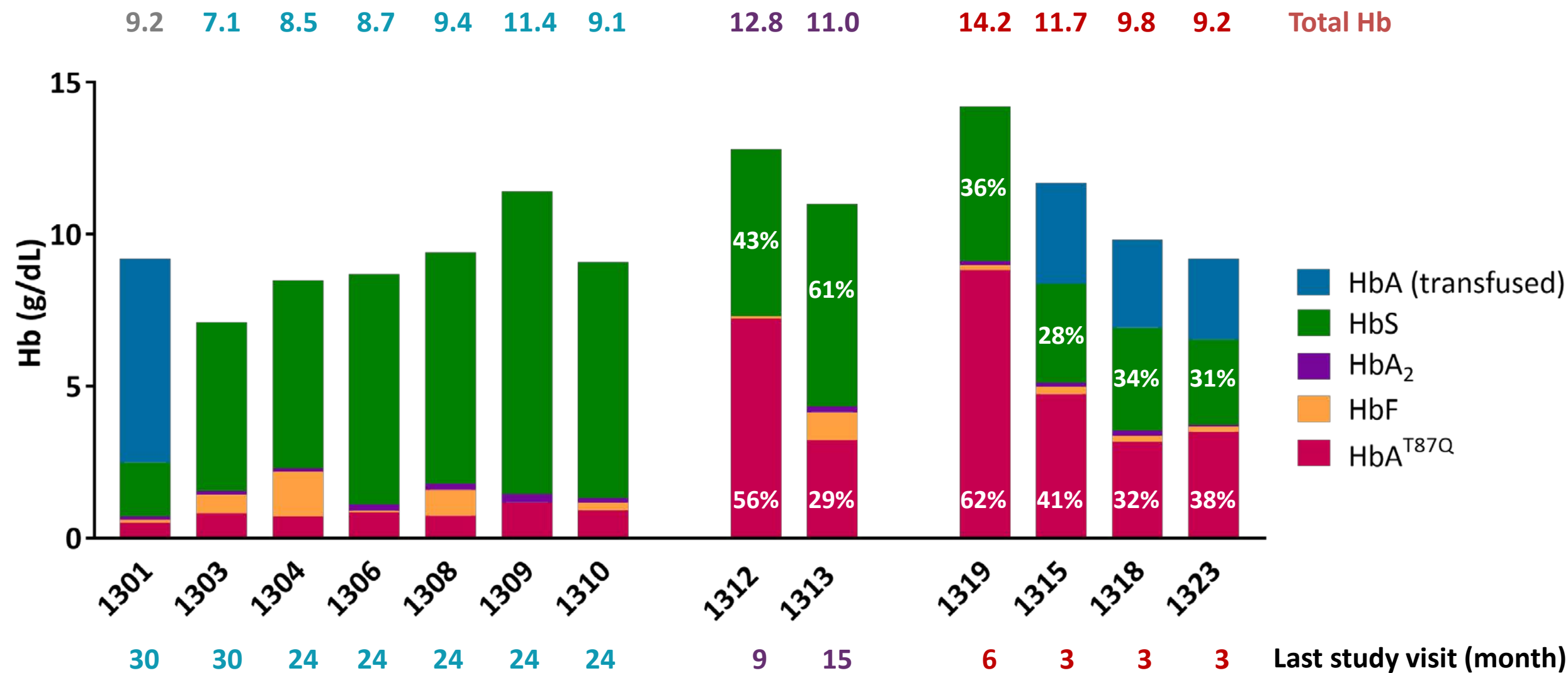


For Group A patients, medians (Q1, Q3) depicted; Group A patients with month 30 study visit (N=2)

HbA^{T87Q}, vector derived hemoglobin

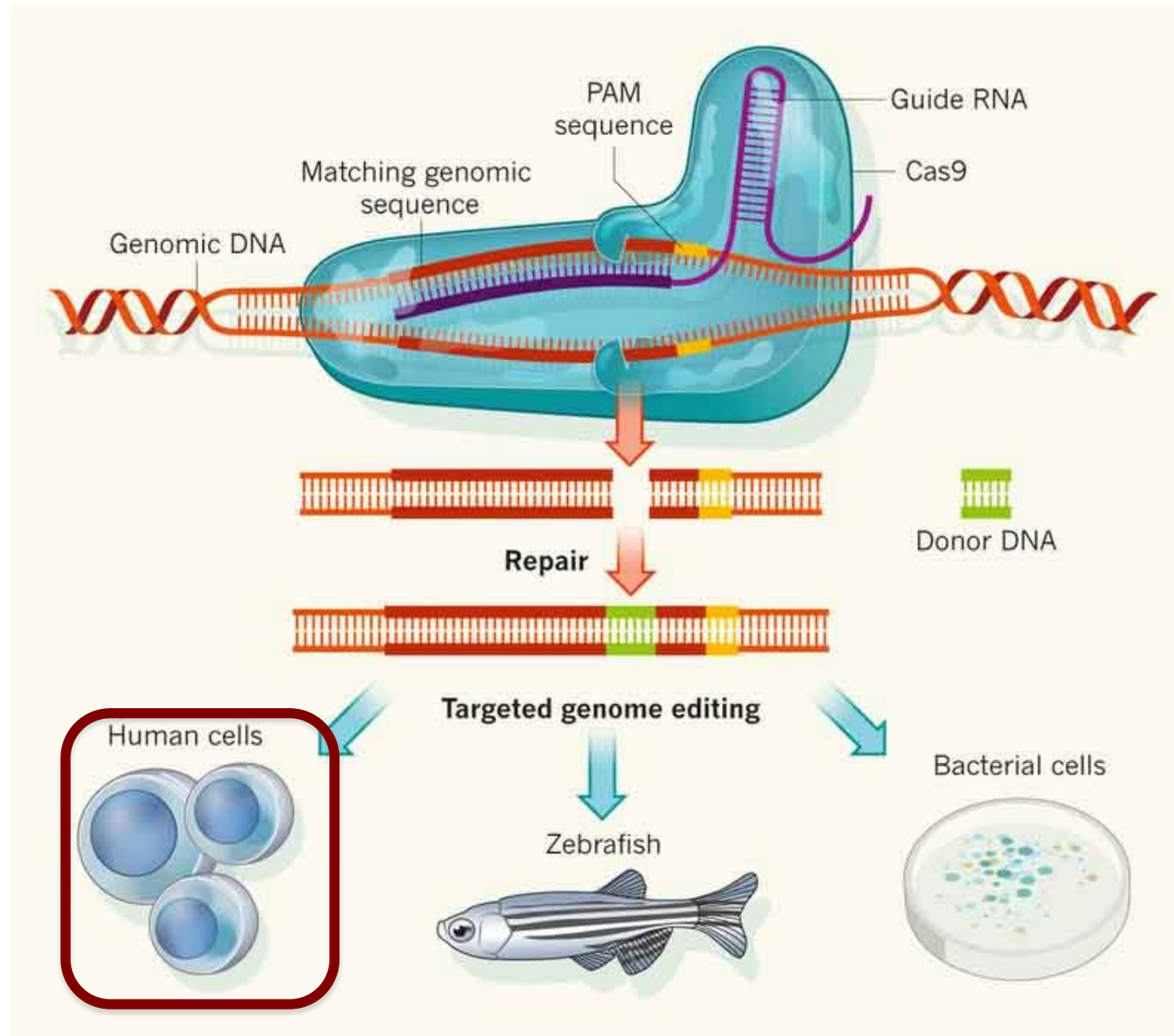
Kanter, et al. EHA 2018. Abstract S836.

Vector-derived hemoglobin in treated patients



Hb, hemoglobin; HbA, adult hemoglobin; HbA^{T87Q}, vector derived hemoglobin; HbF, fetal hemoglobin; HbS, sickle hemoglobin
Kanter, et al. EHA 2018. Abstract S836.

Cas9 for programmable gene correction



targeted

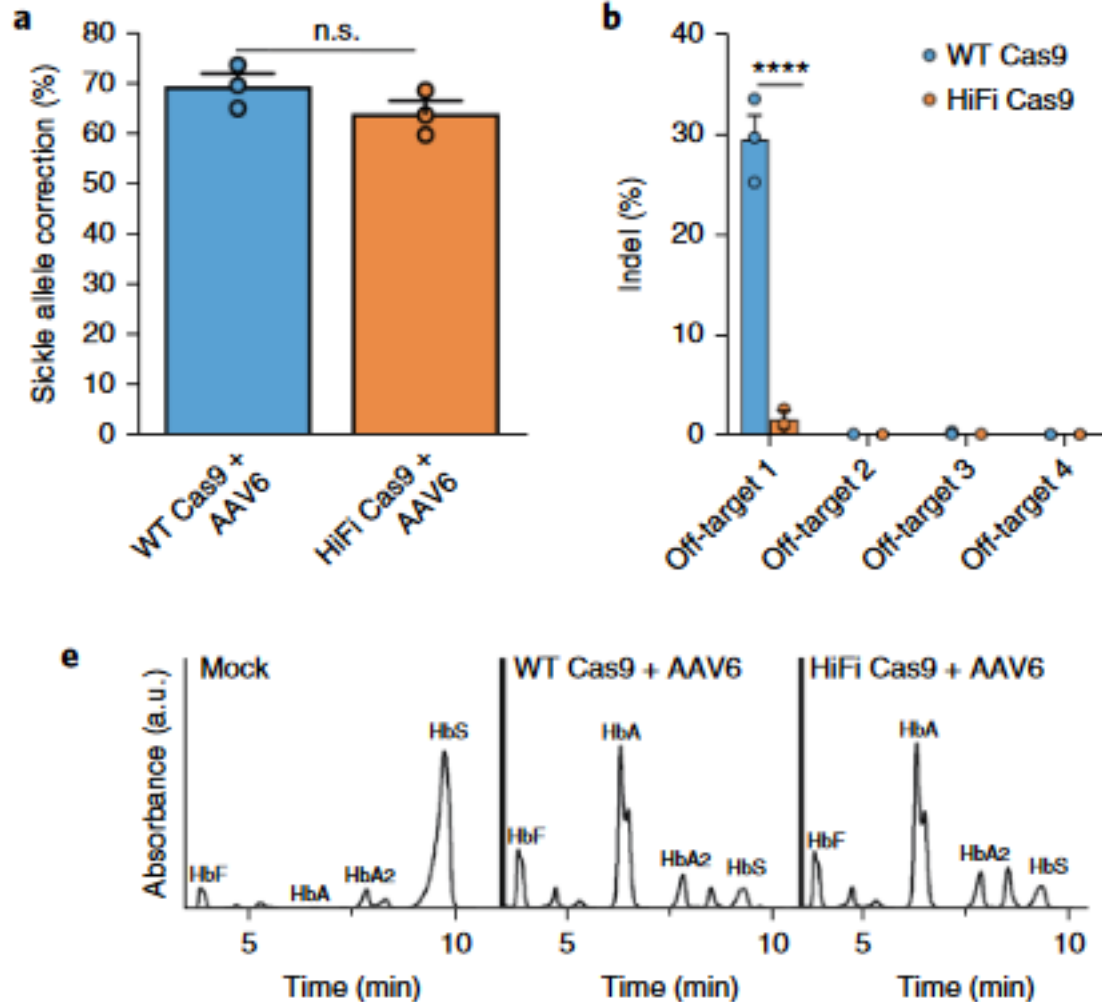
fast

efficient

simple

inexpensive

How is a curative outcome depicted – Gene editing?



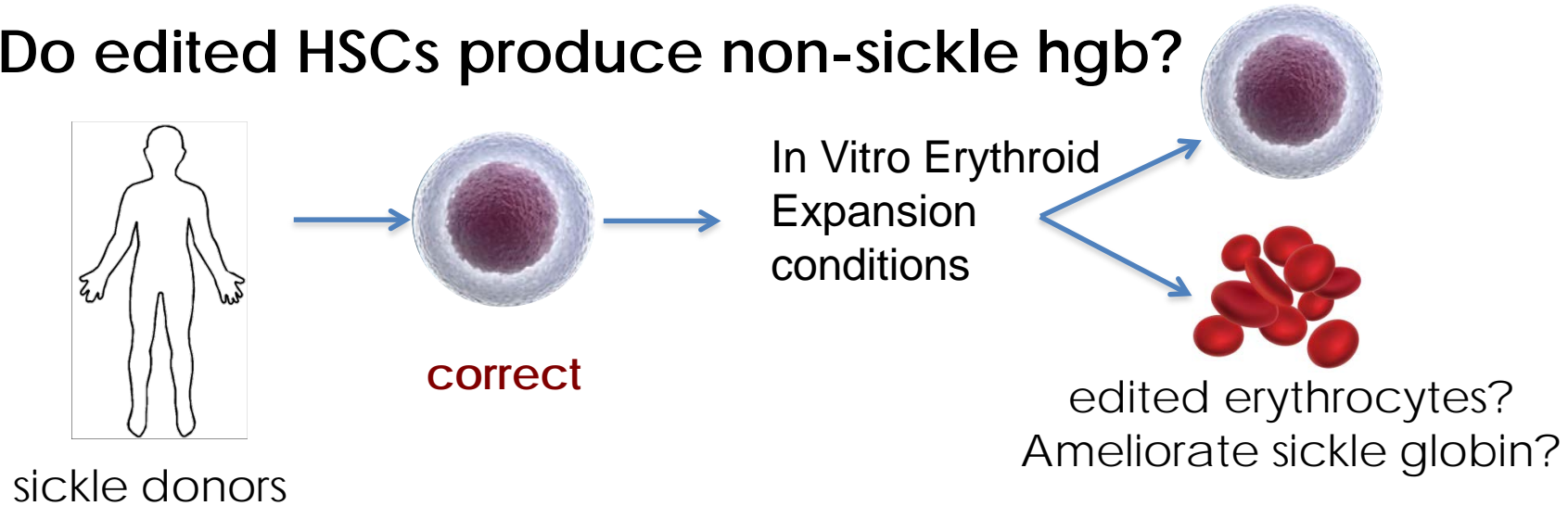
Fraction of Sickle allele corrected

Frequency of off-target modification

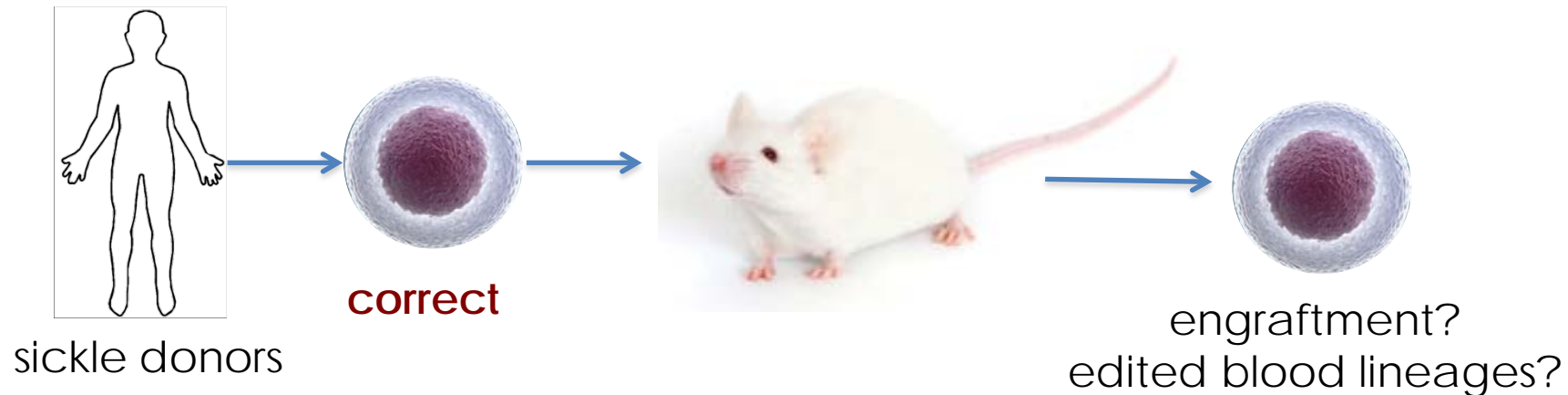
Dilution of HbS by 50%

In vivo and *in vitro* experiments

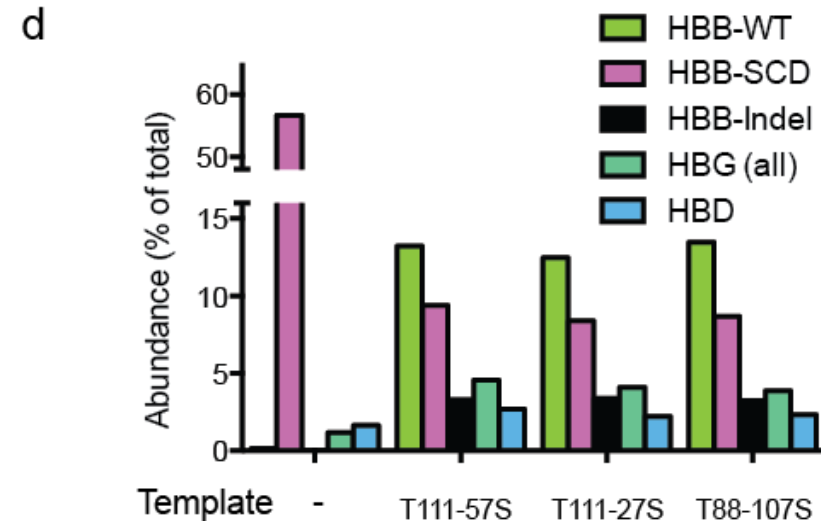
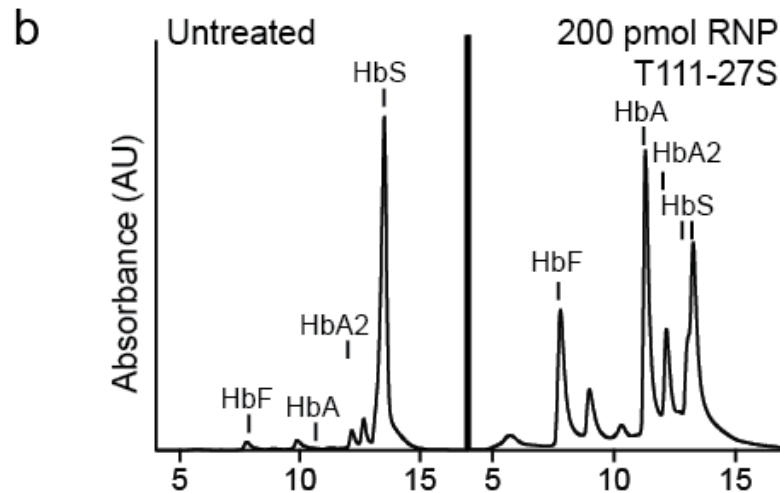
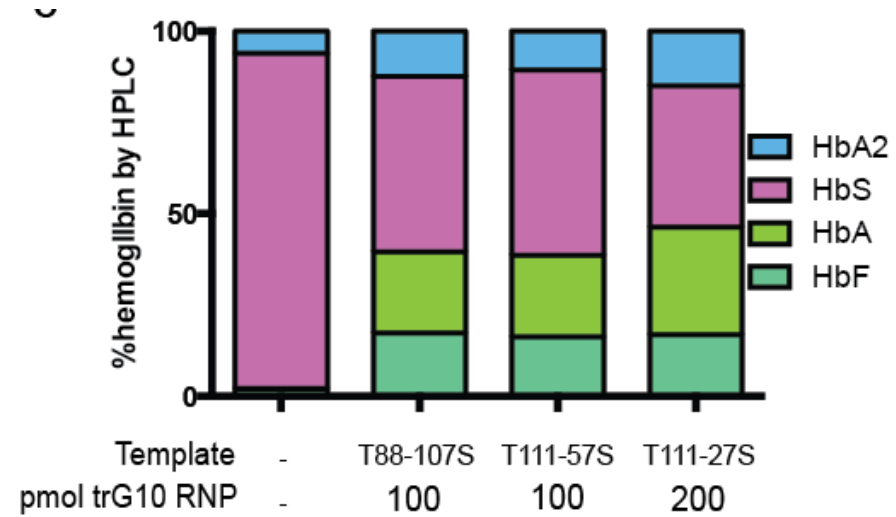
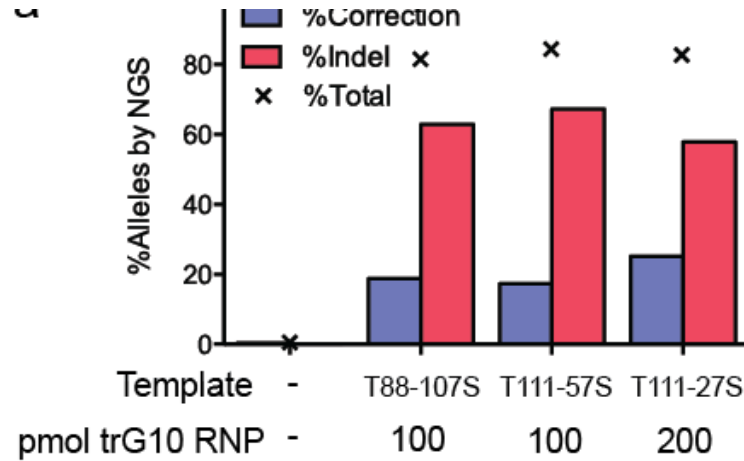
Do edited HSCs produce non-sickle hgb?



Are human edited cells true HSCs?

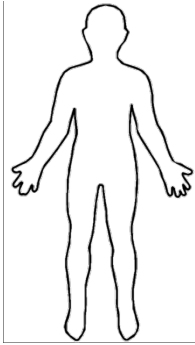


In vitro erythroid expansion



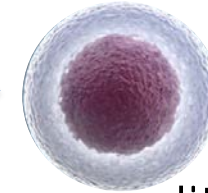
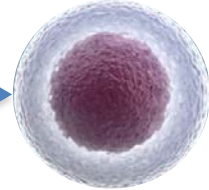
In vivo experiments: xenografts

Are human edited cells true HSCs?



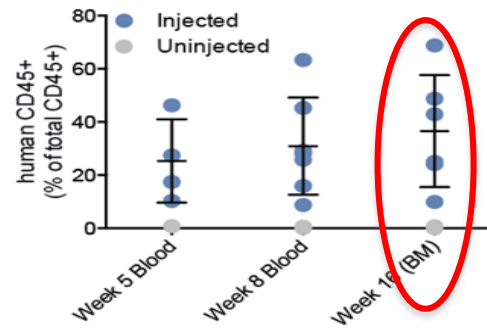
sickle donors

correct

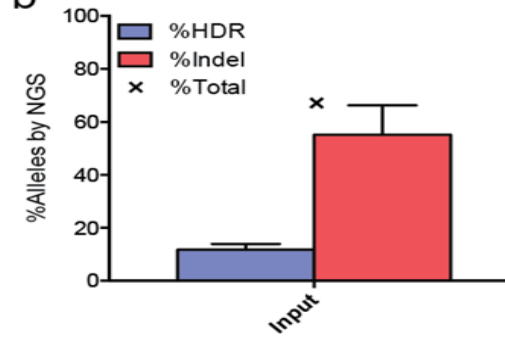


engraftment?
edited blood lineages?

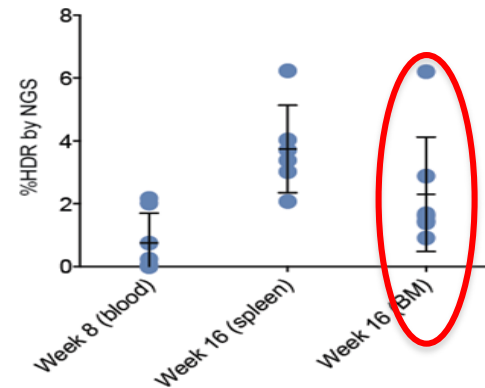
a



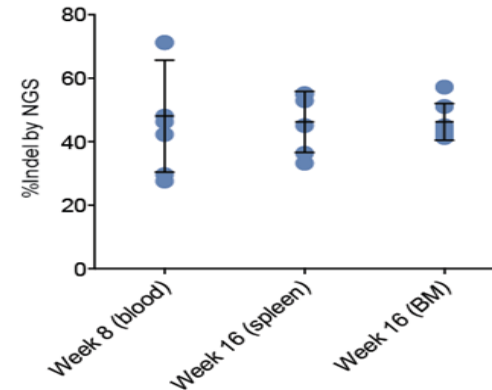
b



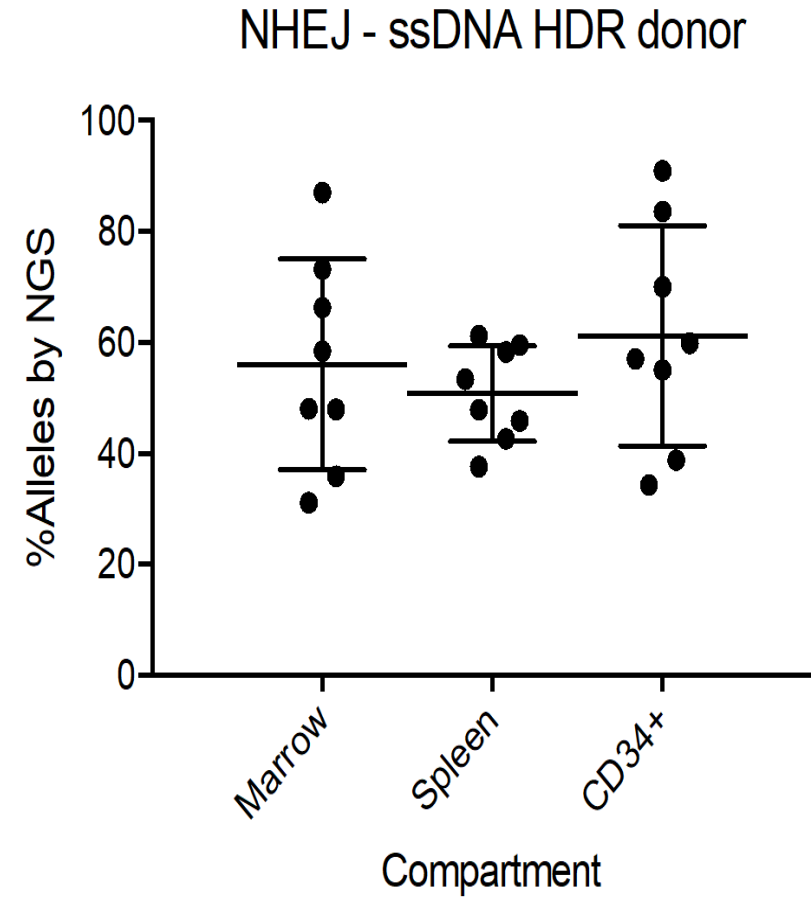
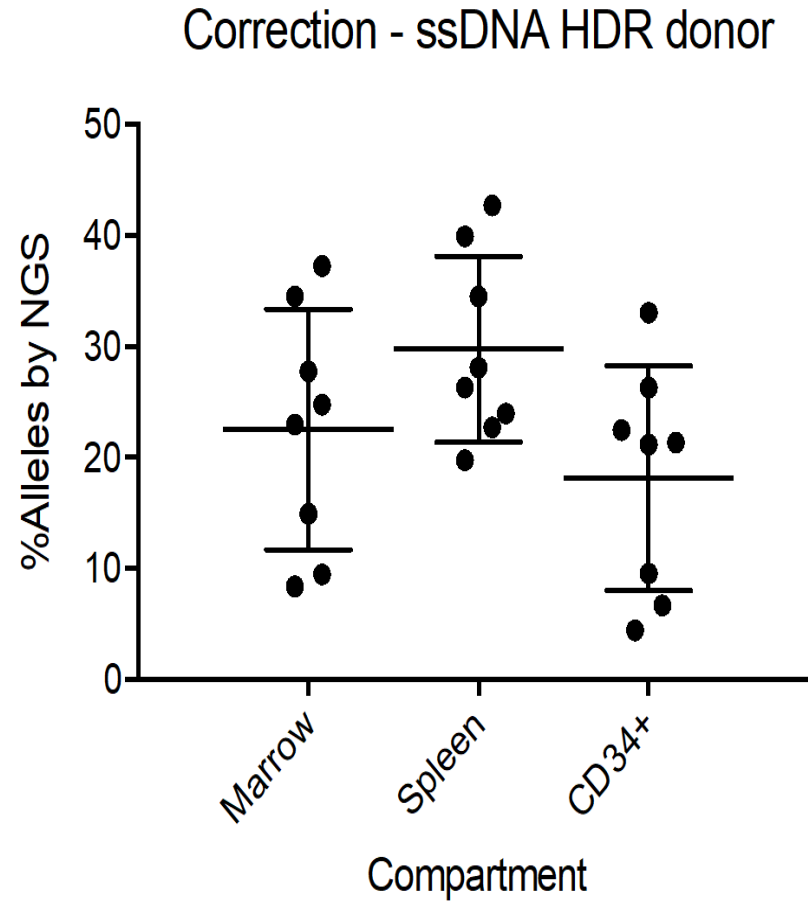
c



d

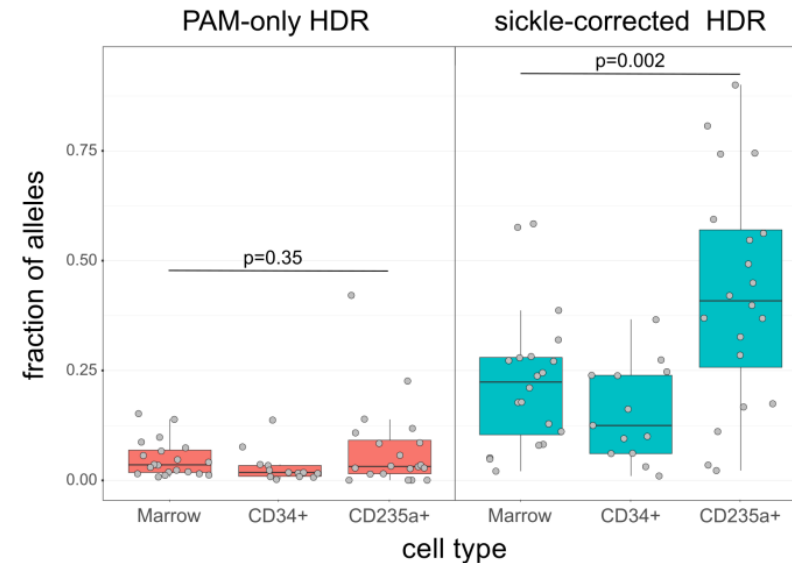
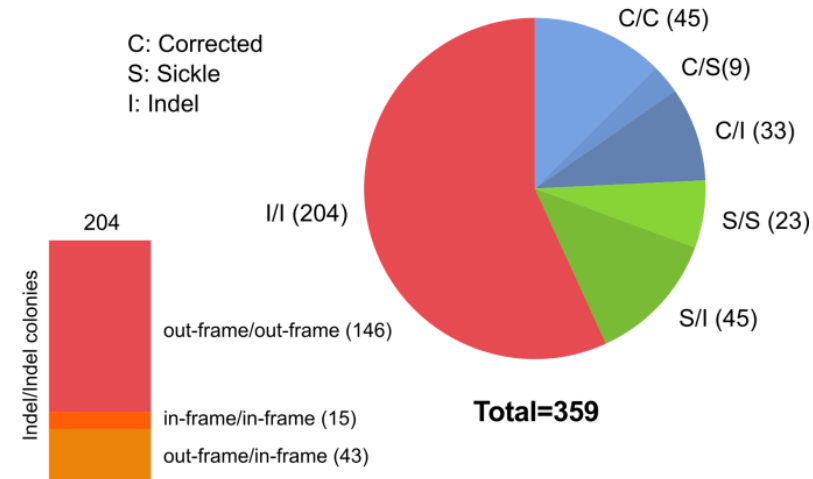


Optimized sickle correction in xenotransplant model with plerixafor-mobilized HbSS CD34+ cells



ssDNA donor directed editing had an average of 22.15% \pm 7.66% correction in marrow

Curative therapies – % allele



Magis W et al.; bioRxiv 432716; doi:
<https://doi.org/10.1101/432716>

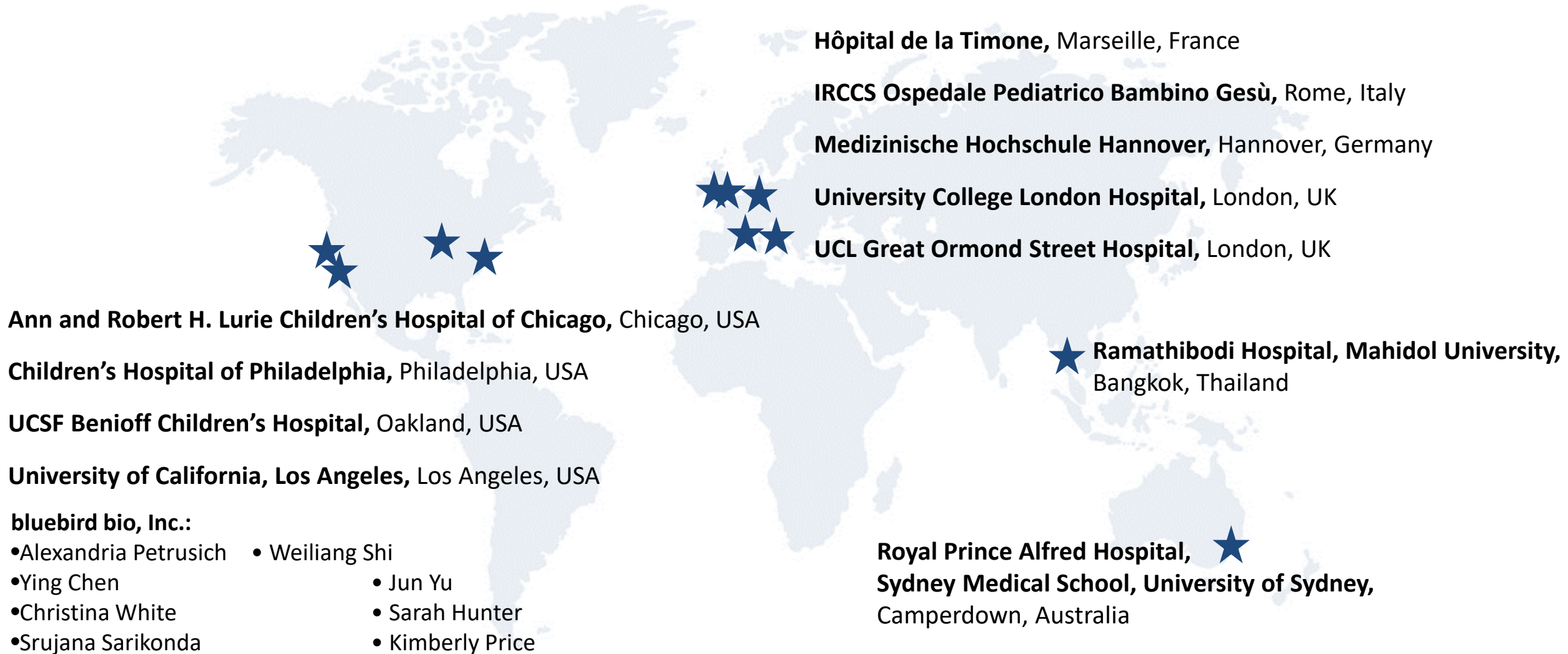
Summary

- **LentiGlobin BB305 gene therapy shows promising results in TDT**
- **LentiGlobin VCN strongly correlated with HbA^{T87Q} level**
- **Clinical benefit in SCD has been appears to follow HbA^{T87Q} levels – approach 50% non-HbS**
- **The future of curative therapies that will have broad availability might follow advances in gene therapy and genomic correction of the sickle mutation in HSCs – availability of the treatment will be a limiting factor**

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