

# Therapeutics: Potential New Drugs and Drugs in Development

Thomas F. Patterson, MD, FACP, FIDSA  
Professor of Medicine  
Vice-Chair for Clinical Research  
Chief, Division of Infectious Diseases  
Director, San Antonio Center for  
Medical Mycology



# Presenter Disclosures

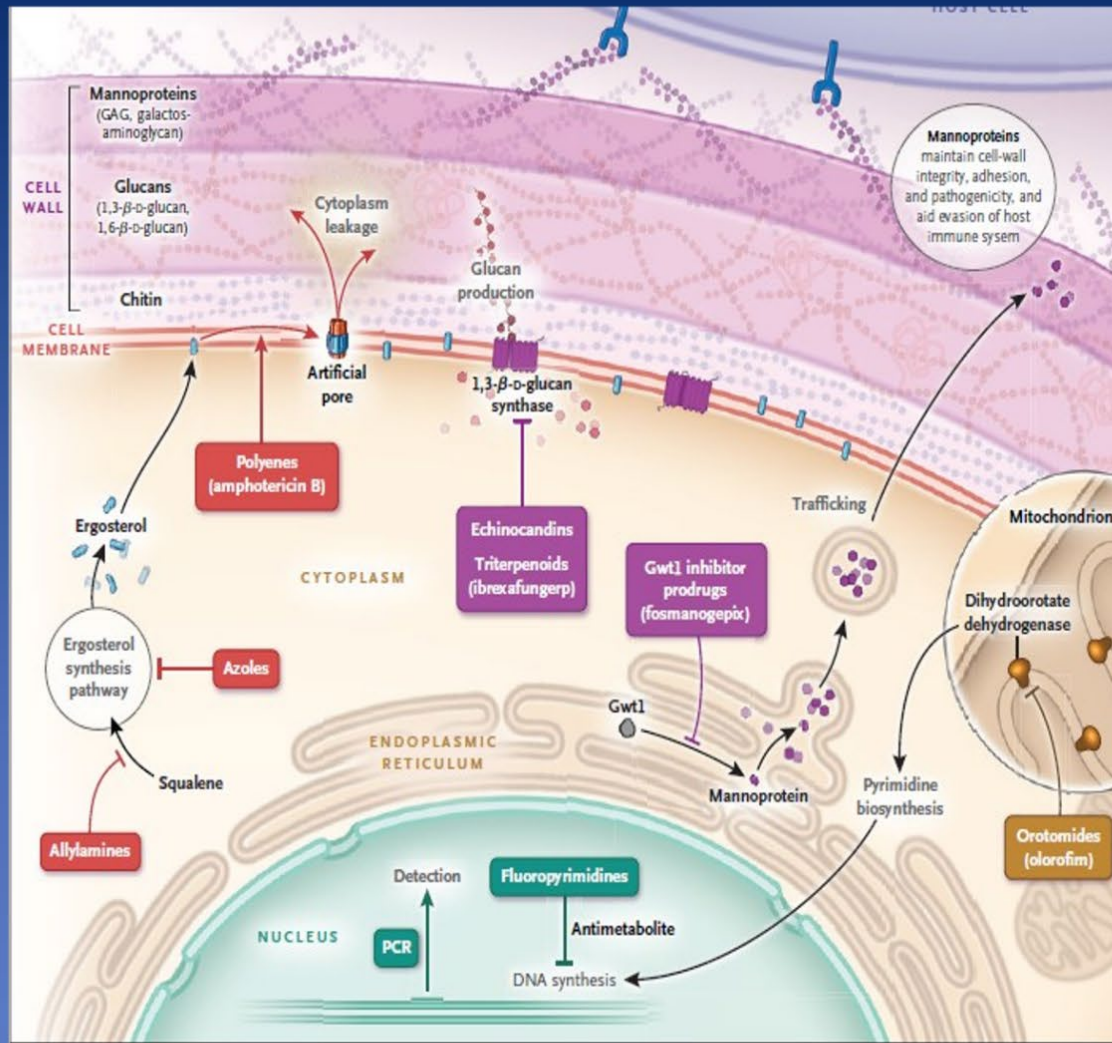
**Thomas F Patterson MD**

**The following relationships with commercial interests existed during the past 24 months:**

<b>Company Name:</b>	<b>Nature of Relationship: Consultant, Speakers Bureau, Sponsored Research, Other</b>
Grant support	Cidara, Gilead, F2G
Consultant	Basilea, F2G, Gilead, Merck, Pfizer, Scynexis, Sfunga
Speakers' bureau	None
Major Stock holder	None
Other material support	NIH/NIAID (Amplifyx, Cidara, F2G, Matinas, Scynexis, Toyama, Viamet, Vical, Valley Fever Solutions)

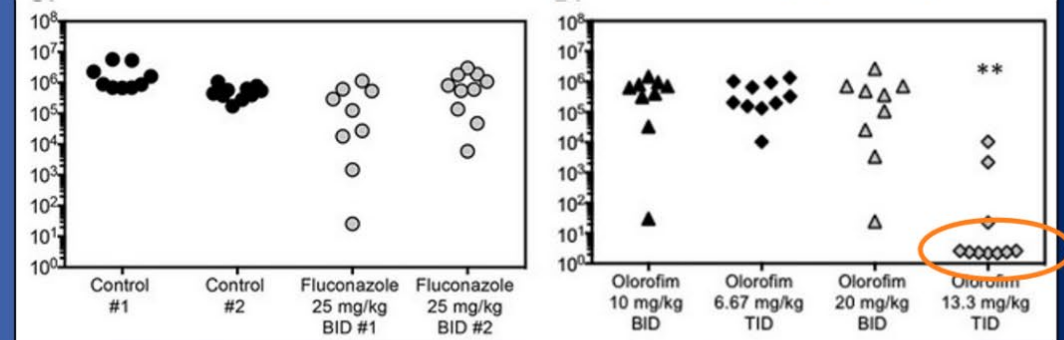
# The Antifungal Pipeline: A Reality Check

## Novel Agents



Drug	Target	MIC ( $\mu\text{g/mL}$ )
Olorofim	Dihydro-orotate dehydrogenase Pyrimidine synthesis	MIC <sub>50</sub> /MIC <sub>90</sub> $\leq 0.008/0.015$
Ibrexafungerp	Glucan synthase New structure Cell wall	MIC range $< 0.125-0.25$
Fosmanogepix	GPI synthesis inhibitor Cell wall	MEC range $0.002-0.016$

Murine model: Olorofim x 7 days, then necropsy 7 days later



Culture negative in  
7/10!

Thompson GR and Young JH. *NEJM*. 2021; 385(16):1496-1509. Wiederhold et al. *Antimicrob Agents Chemo* 2018; 62(9):e00999-18

Slide courtesy George R Thompson III, MD; Thx! GR!

# The Antifungal Armamentarium: Key Questions for Coccidioidomycosis

- Unmet need: burden of infection; impact of resistance
- Newer clinical agents with activity in cocci
  - Isavuconazole
  - Posaconazole tablets/IV
  - SUBA-itraconazole
- Drugs with in vitro / in vivo activity in coccidioidomycosis
  - Nikkomycin Z (VFS-1)
  - Oteseconazole (VT-1161), VT-1598
  - Olorofim (F901318)
  - Fosmanogepix (AXP001)
  - Ibrexafungerp (SCY-078)
- Other drugs in the pipeline: unknown cocci activity
  - Amphotericin B cochleates
  - Glucan synthase inhibitors: rezafungin, others
  - Repurposed drugs: sertraline, aranofin, others

# Nikkomycin Z (VFS1)

(Valley Fever Solutions)

- **Nikkomycin Z (NikZ) is first in a new class of antifungal, chitin synthase inhibition**
  - Novel mechanism of action, significant unmet medical need
  - Activity against *Coccidioides*, *Blastomyces*, *Histoplasma*, *Aspergillus*, others
  - Selective to fungal cells - thus far no safety concerns in mammals
    - Efficacy in murine models
    - Efficacy in naturally occurring pulmonary coccidioidomycosis in dogs
  - May enhance other anti-fungal treatments in combination with other drugs
  - In 2014, GAIN Act QIDP designation—providing 7 and 5 years sequential market exclusivity after marketing approval.
  - Scaled up trial material in process, Phase IIa trials in clinical infection

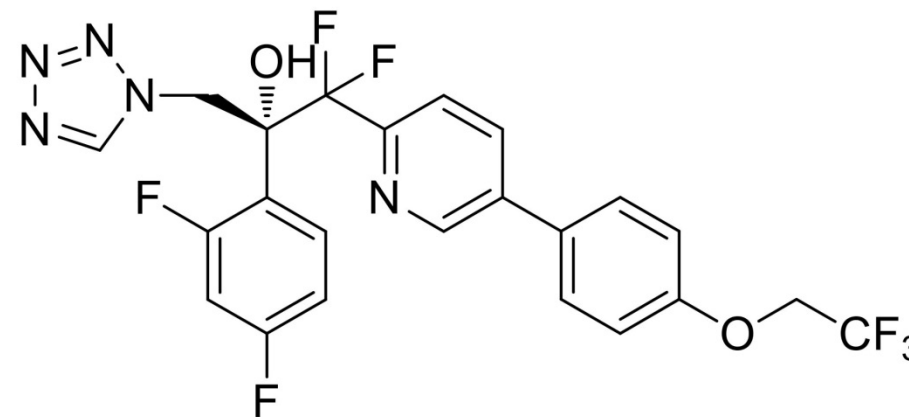
Shubitz LF, et al. *J Infect Dis* 2014;209:1949-54; Hector RF, et al. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 1990;34:587-93; Najvar LK, et al. ICAAC, 2015

<http://valleyfeversolutions.com/>

# Novel Cyp51 Inhibitors VT-1161/1598

(Viamet; Mycovia Pharmaceuticals, Inc.)

- Investigational fungal Cyp51 inhibitors
- MOA similar to azoles
- Highly selective for fungal Cyp51 enzyme vs human Cyp450 enzymes (>2000 more so than the azoles)
  - $K_d$  against fungal Cyp51  $\leq 39$  nM
  - Failed to inhibit human CYP450 at 50  $\mu$ M
- Oteseconazole exhibits minimal interactions with CYP51 and key drug metabolizing CYPs; along with high protein binding contributes to long half-life (~138 days)
  - FDA approved: recurrent vulvovaginal candidiasis (NCT03561701 [VIOLET])



VT-1161  
(Oteseconazole)



# Comparative In-Vitro Activity: VT-1161 (Oteseconazole)

		Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (µg/ml) <sup>a</sup> (MIC)					
	Fungal Species	Oteseconazole	Fluconazole	Voriconazole	Posaconazole	Anidulafungin	Amphotericin
Yeast MICs @ 50% inhibition	<i>Candida albicans</i>	0.001	0.2	≤0.008	0.03	0.015	0.5
	Azole-resistant <i>C. albicans</i>	0.15	20	0.32	0.20	b	b
	<i>C. glabrata</i>	0.16	2.0	0.06	0.25	0.06	1
	Echinocandin-res. <i>C. glabrata</i>	0.16	5.2	0.25	b	0.92	b
	<i>C. auris</i>	0.75	>64	0.70	0.035	0.12	1
	<i>C. parapsilosis</i>	0.033	0.44	≤0.008	0.06	2	0.5
	<i>C. krusei</i>	0.16	31	0.25	0.5	0.06	1
	<i>Cryptococcus neoformans</i>	0.03	2.0	0.03	0.12	>4	0.5
	<i>C. gattii</i>	0.06	1.9	0.12	0.12	>4	0.25
Endemic MICs @ 80% inhibition	<i>Coccidioides</i> spp.	1.4	8.3	0.11	0.14	0.11 <sup>a</sup>	0.25
	<i>Histoplasma capsulatum</i>	0.43	2.0	0.06	0.47	0.40	0.25
	<i>Blastomyces dermatitidis</i>	1.0	2.5	≤0.03	0.62	0.55	0.12
Mold MICs @ 100% inhibition	<i>R. arrhizus</i> var. <i>arrhizus</i>	0.67	>64	8	1.0	>8	0.25

<sup>a</sup>All MICs derived from studies conducted under CLSI protocols and represent either MIC<sub>50</sub> or geomean values from collections of at least 10 clinical isolates (most studies having >50 isolates). Almost all oteseconazole values were from studies that used fluconazole as the comparator (and thus the fluconazole value is presented). Most other values were taken from the literature.

<sup>b</sup>Not in study found for other drugs; presumed to be fully sensitive.

Color codes: Green (Proven or Assumed Sensitive), Yellow (Proven or Assumed Intermediate), Red (Proven Resistant)

# VT-1161 in Naturally Infected Dogs with Coccidioidomycosis

- ▶ Enrolled respiratory cases based on clinical signs, radiographs, serology, clinical pathology
- ▶ 60 days of medication: 14 days loading dose, followed by 46 days maintenance at ~5-fold lower dose  
High dose – (29/6 mg/kg) – 12 dogs

- ▶ Mean entrance score: 13.3
- ▶ Mean exit score: 5.0
- ▶ Mean plasma concentration:  $36 \pm 14$   $\mu\text{g/ml}^*$
- ▶ 9/12 dogs (75%) experienced 75%-100% reduction in clinical signs; 1 dog removed for progressive lung consolidation on day 35
- ▶ 66% of dogs had at least one dilution reduction in titer and 66% had reduction or resolution of CBC/serum chemistry abnormalities
- ▶ Radiographic improvement was mixed, ranging from no change to 90% improvement

## Low Dose (10/1.6 mg/kg) – 10 dogs

- ▶ Mean entrance score: 14.4
- ▶ Mean exit score: 4.7
- ▶ Mean plasma concentration:  $19 \pm 8$   $\mu\text{g/ml}^*$
- ▶ All 10 dogs experienced clinical improvement though 1 had radiographic progression and increased titer
- ▶ 60% of dogs had at least 1 dilution reduction in titer and 80% had reduction or resolution of CBC/serum chemistry abnormalities
- ▶ Radiographic improvement mixed, ranging from no change to 85% improvement

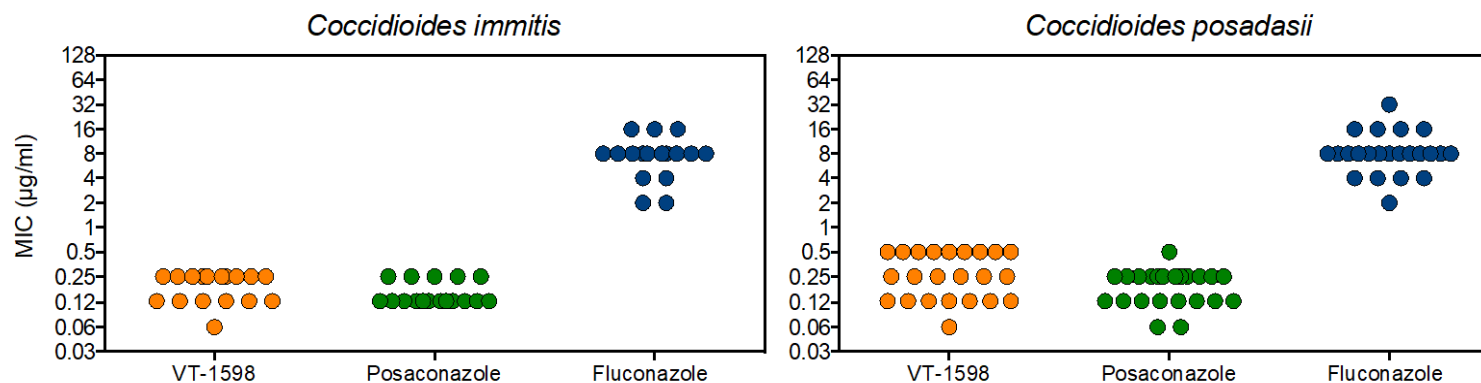
*\*In vitro* MIC90 and MIC range of 2 and 1-4  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  for 52 clinical isolates of *Coccidioides*

Shubitz LF, *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 2017;Apr 24;6(5).

Shubitz LF, et al. 60<sup>th</sup> CSG. Thanks! Lisa!

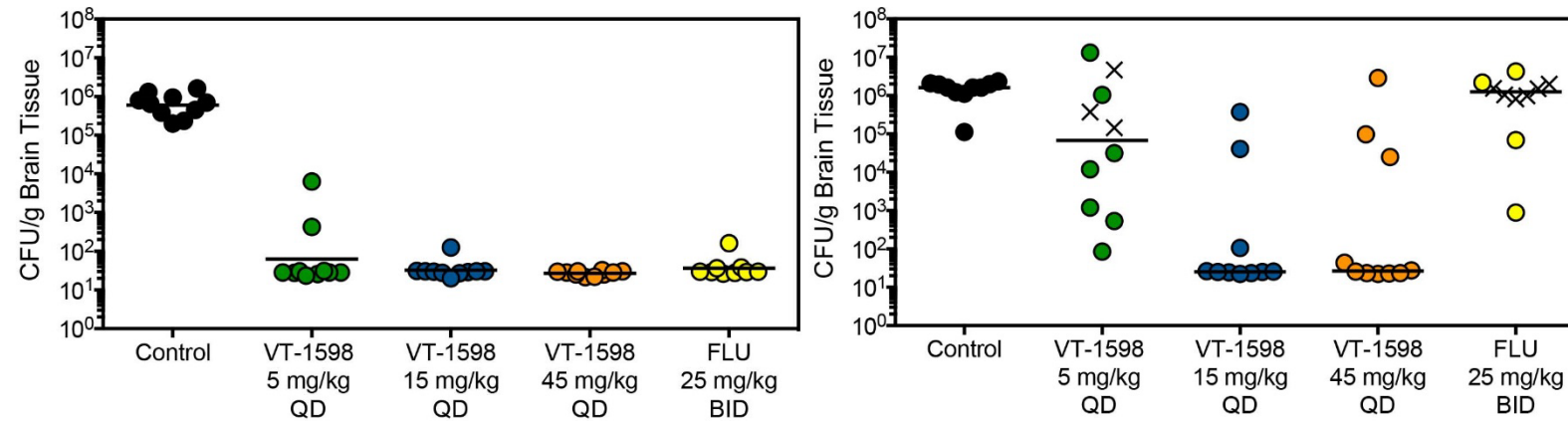


# In vitro activity of VT-1598, Posaconazole, & Fluconazole against *C. immitis* & *C. posadasii*



Species	<i>Coccidioides immitis</i> (n = 17)			<i>Coccidioides posadasii</i> (n = 23)		
Antifungal	VT-1598	Posaconazole	Fluconazole	VT-1598	Posaconazole	Fluconazole
MIC range	0.06-0.25	0.12-0.25	2-16	0.06-0.5	0.06-0.5	2-32
MIC50	0.25	0.12	8	0.25	0.25	8
MIC90	0.25	0.25	16	0.5	0.25	16
GM MIC	0.180	0.153	7.08	0.250	0.179	8.00

# VT-1598 in Murine CNS Coccidioidomycosis: Tissue Fungal Burden



Group	Control	VT-1598 5 mg/kg QD	VT-1598 15 mg/kg QD	VT-1598 45 mg/kg QD	Fluconazole 25 mg/kg BID
Mean log CFU/g (SD) Day 9	5.77 (0.30)	1.80 (0.80) *p<0.0001	1.51 (0.21) *p<0.0001	1.43 (0.06) *p<0.0001	1.56 (0.25) *p<0.0001
Median log CFU/g (Range) Survival	6.21 (5.05 – 6.37)	4.83 (1.93 – 7.12)	1.40 (1.35 – 5.57) *p = 0.0005 **p = 0.0063	1.42 (1.35 – 6.46) *p = 0.0018 **p = 0.0193	6.10 (2.95 – 6.63)

\*p-value vs. Control; \*\*p-value vs. Fluconazole. X = mice in VT-1598 & Fluconazole groups that succumbed prior to day 30.

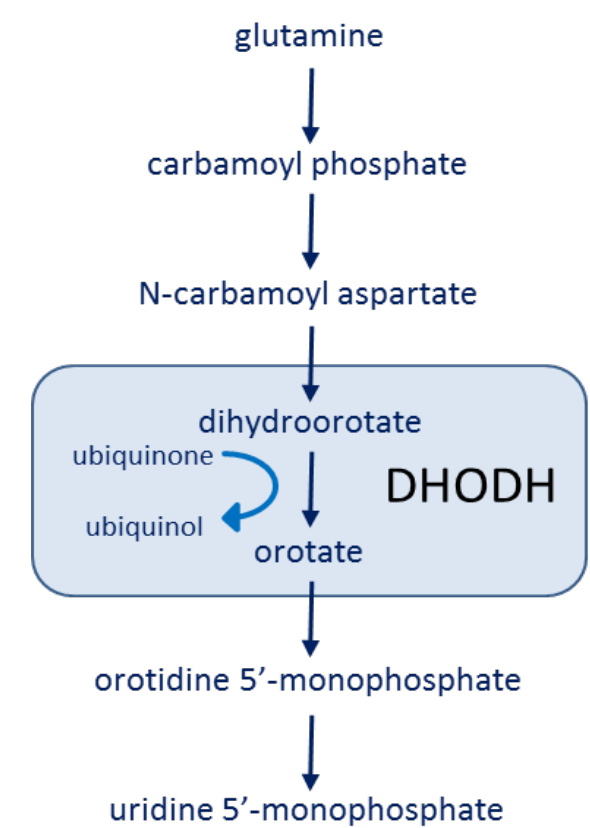
Tissue burden in fungal burden arm (day 9: A); and survival arm after 14 days of treatment wash-out (B).

Lower Limit of Detection = 10 CFU/g.

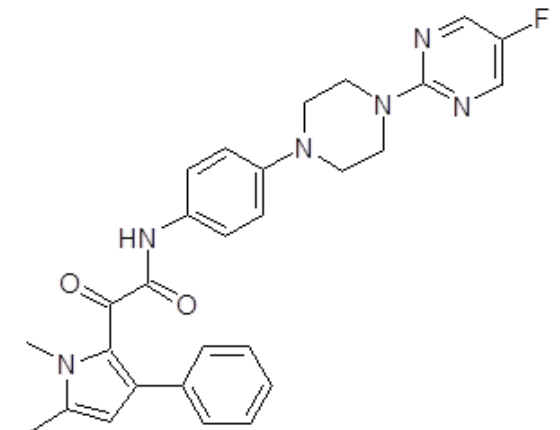
# Orotomide: Olorofim (F901318) (F2G)

## Mechanism of Action, Spectrum

- Olorofim is a potent inhibitor of *A. fumigatus* DHODH
  - DHODH (Dihydroorotate dehydrogenase) is a key enzyme involved in pyrimidine biosynthesis
- Mechanism was identified using genetic studies in *Aspergillus nidulans*
  - Confirmed by in vitro enzyme assays
- Humans also have this enzyme
  - But, > 2000-fold difference in IC<sub>50</sub> between human and fungal enzymes
- Spectrum of activity: highly active against moulds/endemics
  - Aspergillus* (including resistant strains), *Lomentospora*, *Scedosporium*
  - Very potent vs endemic fungi: *Coccidioides*, *Blastomyces*, *Histoplasma*
- Phase II clinical study for resistant/refractory mycoses completed



## F901318 structure



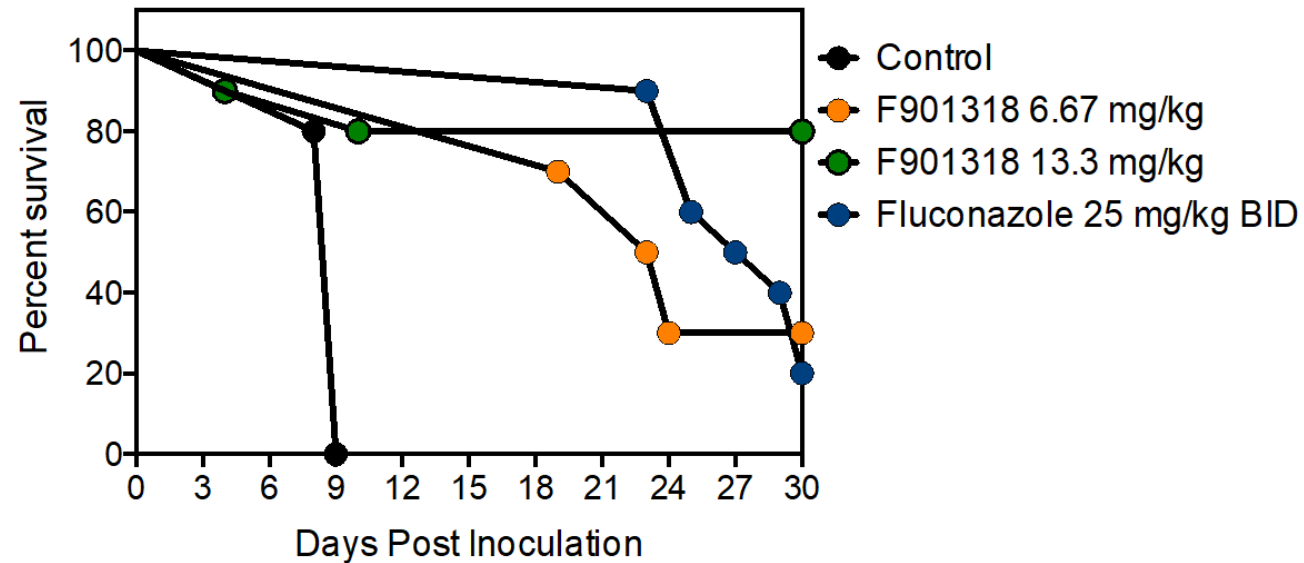
**TABLE 1** MICs of olorofim and voriconazole against 59 *Coccidioides* species isolates

MIC parameter (μg/ml) <sup>a</sup>	All <i>Coccidioides</i> Isolates (n = 59)		<i>Coccidioides immitis</i> (n = 21)		<i>Coccidioides posadasii</i> (n = 24)	
	Olorofim	Voriconazole	Olorofim	Voriconazole	Olorofim	Voriconazole
MIC range	≤0.008 to 0.06	≤0.03 to 0.25	≤0.008 to 0.015	≤0.03 to 0.25	≤0.008 to 0.015	≤0.03 to 0.25
MIC <sub>50</sub>	≤0.008	0.125	≤0.008	0.06	≤0.008	0.125
MIC <sub>90</sub>	0.015	0.25	0.015	0.125	0.015	0.125
GM MIC	0.011	0.113	0.009	0.072	0.009	0.103

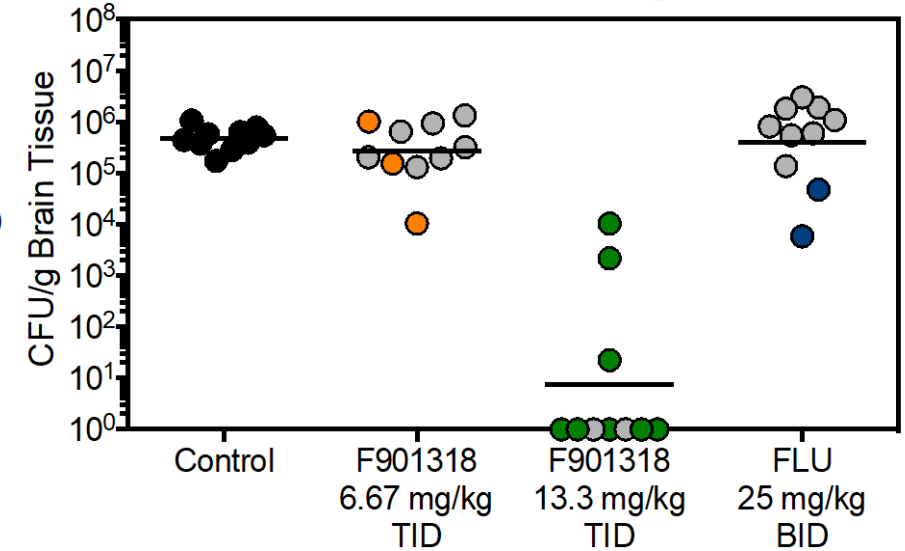
<sup>a</sup>MICs were measured, after 48 to 72 h of incubation at 35°C, as the lowest concentration that resulted in 80% inhibition of growth, compared to the growth control. MIC<sub>50</sub>, MIC at which 50% of isolates were inhibited; MIC<sub>90</sub>, MIC at which 90% of isolates were inhibited; GM, geometric mean.

# Olorofim in a Murine Model of CNS Coccidioidomycosis

**A98 2017.06 Survival**



**A98 2017.06 Survival Fungal Burden**



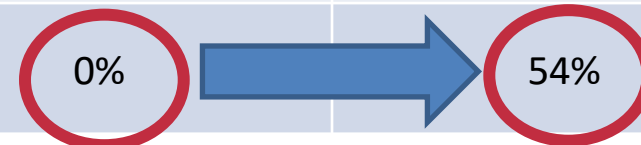
Group	Control	F901318 6.67 mg/kg	F901318 13.3 mg/kg	Fluconazole 25 mg/kg
Mean log <sub>10</sub> CFU/g (SD)	5.67 (0.22)	5.44 (0.62)	0.87 (1.55) *p < 0.0001	5.61 (0.84)
Mean log <sub>10</sub> CFU/g (SD) (LLD)	5.67 (0.22)	5.44 (0.62)	1.13 (1.38) *p < 0.0001	5.61 (0.84)

\*p-value vs. Control

Gray circles represent mice in treatment groups that succumbed prior to day 30

# Phase II Study for Resistant/Refractory Mycoses Completed: DRC-adjudicated response rate at Day 42 (mITT analysis set), *including stable disease as success*

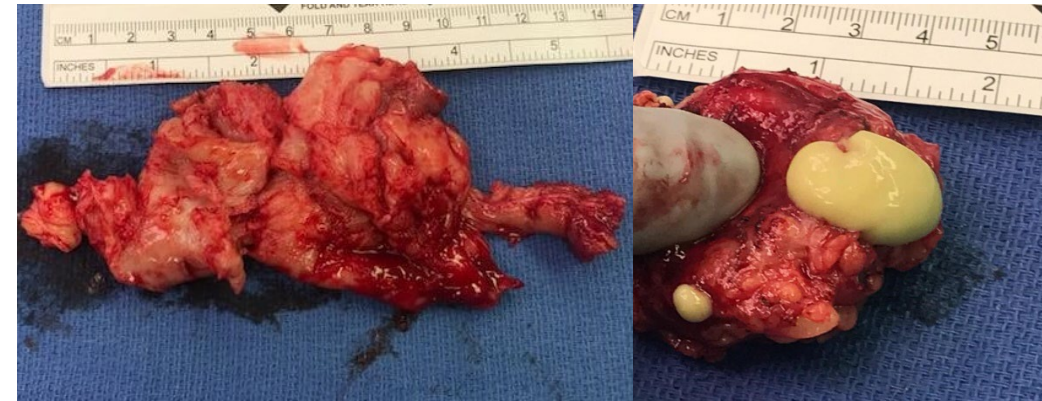
% success	DRC-adjudicated response rate <sup>1</sup> Day 42	
	Complete + partial	Complete + partial + stable
Overall (N = 100)	44%	69%
<i>Aspergillus</i> spp. (N = 53)	47%	60%
<i>Lomentospora prolificans</i> (N = 17)	53%	88%
<i>Scedosporium</i> spp. (N = 11)	55%	82%
Other Olorofim-susceptible fungi (N = 8)	50%	87%
<i>Coccidioides</i> spp. (N = 11)	0%	54%





# UTHSA Experience: Olorofim for Disseminated Coccidioidomycosis

- 49 yo Hispanic man oil field worker; 1/18 'CAP' unresponsive to abx, 7/18 knee swelling, serology pos cocci, treated flu no response & pseudohyperaldo; 9/19 Cocci IDCP 1:1024 debrided change itra (rash, pollakiuria, brain fog), posa (brain fog, fatigue, alopecia); 2/21 IDCf 1:16; olorofim 4/21 PRO 'best he's felt since initial dx' 10/22 clinically improved IDCf 1:8
- 52 yo woman refractory CNS cocci failed multiple azoles and intrathecal AmB; persistent headaches and csf abnormalities IDCf 1:16; tolerated Isavuconazole with minimal improvement 3/21 begun on olorofim + isavu; headaches resolved; 10/22 IDCf 1:8; pt reports significant clinical improvement
- 37 yo Cambodian man moved to TX from WA; developed CNS symptoms; CNS cocci dx made with pos serology treated with flu no response; readm for worse symptoms treated vori+L-AmB; presented to our hospital with C5 quadriplegia; csf pleocytosis; extensive leptomeningeal enhancement; CSF IDCf 1:256 restarted L-AmB+vori then Olorofim +vori; improvement in mental status and minimal arm movements csf titer dec to 1:8 by day 84 with improvement in CSF findings



June 2021

24 Jan 2022



# Coccidioidomycosis: External Controls

- Collaborated with Valley Fever Institute (VFI), Bakersfield, CA
- 3,184 VFI patients screened for cases similar to Study 32 patients
  - Extrapulmonary cocci, persistent symptoms, and at least 2 therapies.
  - Unless has died, at least 3 years follow-up
  - 29 comparable cases were identified
- Coccidioidomycosis HC cohort: Improvement to no symptoms was uncommon and slow
  - At average duration of observation of >4.5 years, **3%** (1/29) had no symptoms
- Olorofim-treated patients: Complete Clinical response (No symptoms)
  - Day 42: **18%** (2/11)
  - Day 120: **36%** (4/11)
  - Similar pattern seen for partial response endpoint
- Net: Rapid and frequent complete resolution of symptoms that is unexpected relative to HC cohort

# GPI Biosynthesis Inhibition – APX001 / Fosmanogepix

(Amplyx, Pfizer)

Fungal adhesion ligands derived from GPI-anchored proteins

- *Candida albicans* possess ~115 GPI-anchored proteins
- Als protein family members

*GWT1* gene encodes Gwt1p

- *an inositol acyltransferase in early GPI biosynthesis pathway*

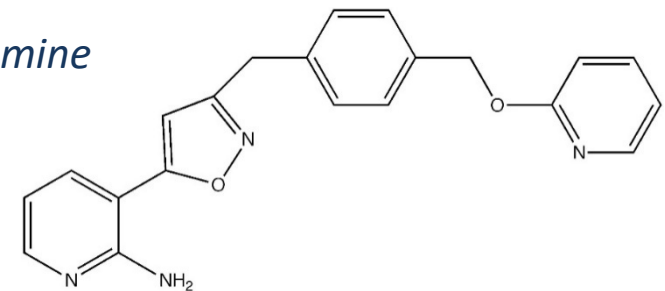


1-(4-butylbenzyl)isoquinoline (BIQ)



Manogepix (APX001a [E1210])

- *(3-(3-{4[(pyridin-2-yloxy)methyl]benzyl}isoxazol-5-yl)pyridin-2-amine*
- *Selectively inhibits fungal inositol acyltransferase*
- *Reduces expression of Als1p on C. albicans cell surface*



Umemura et al. *J Biol Chem* 2003; 278: 23639 – 47.

Watanabe et al. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 2012; 56: 960 – 71.

# Manogepix (APX001a[E1210]) In vitro Activity

Organism	Range	MIC50	MIC90
<i>C. albicans</i> (52)	≤ 0.008 – 0.016	≤ 0.008	≤ 0.008
<i>C. glabrata</i> (44)	≤ 0.008 – 0.06	0.06	0.06
<i>C. tropicalis</i> (23)	≤ 0.008 – 0.03	0.016	0.03
<i>C. parapsilosis</i> (26)	≤ 0.008 – 0.016	≤ 0.008	0.016
<i>A. fumigatus</i> (20)	0.03 – 0.13	0.06	0.13
<i>A. terreus</i> (23)	0.015 – 0.06	0.03	0.06
<i>F. solani</i> (23)	0.03 – 0.12	0.12	0.12
<i>F. oxysporum</i> (15)	0.03 – 0.25	0.06	0.12
<i>S. prolificans</i> (28)	0.03 – 0.25	0.06	0.12
<i>S. apiospermum</i> (28)	0.03 – 0.12	0.06	0.12
<i>S. apiospermum</i> (28)	0.03 – 0.12	0.06	0.12
<i>C. immitis/posadasii</i> (10)	0.002-0.016	0.004	0.004

\*50% inhibition of growth for *Candida*; MEC endpoint for moulds/*Cocci* (static activity)

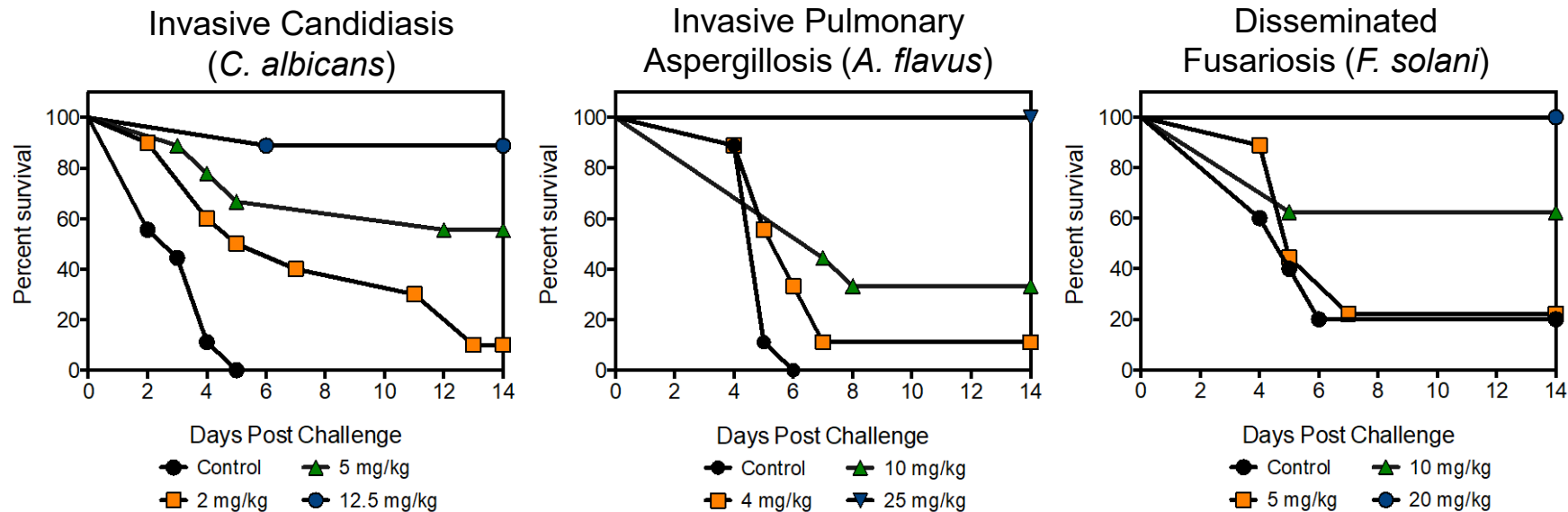
\*\*Inactive against *C. krusei* and members of the Order Mucorales

Active against fluconazole-resistant *Candida* (MIC90 - 0.03 µg/mL)

# GPI Biosynthesis Inhibition (*Amplyx*, *Pfizer*)

## Fosmanogepix (APX001[E1211]) – In vivo Efficacy

In vivo efficacy demonstrated in murine models of invasive fungal infections



PK parameter	Tmax	Bioavailability	Half-life
1 mg/kg PO X1	0.5 hours	57.5%	2.2 hours

- ✓ Efficacy in vitro and in vivo against resistant *C. albicans* & *C. auris*
- ✓ Phase 2 trials for *Candida* & moulds in progress

# Efficacy of APX001/1a in vitro and in vivo against *Coccidioides*

- In vitro testing using agar dilution:

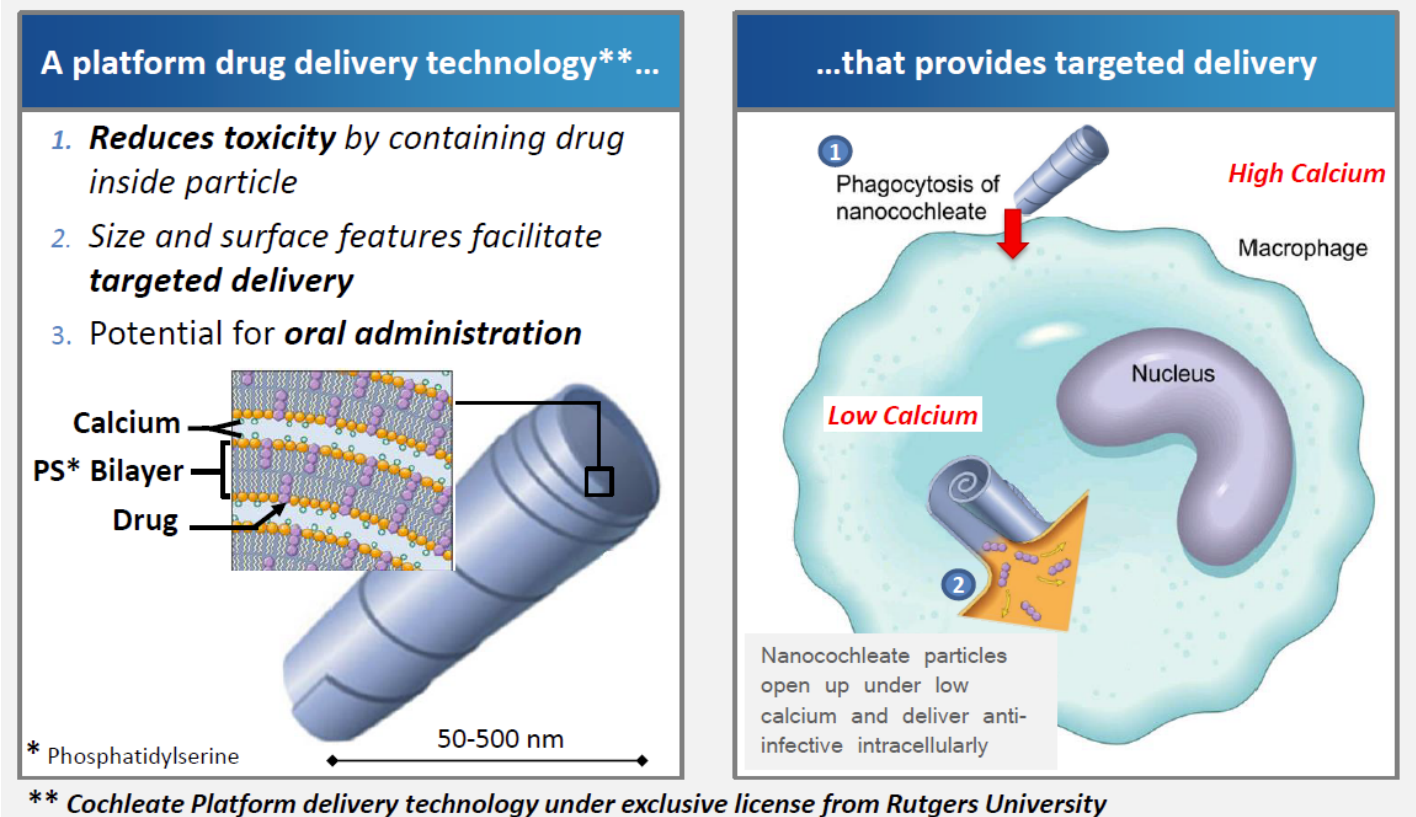
Strain	MEC ( $\mu\text{g/ml}$ ), APX001A	MIC ( $\mu\text{g/ml}$ ) <sup>a</sup>			
		APX001A	FLC	AMB	POS
<i>C. immitis</i> RS	0.002–0.004	8	>16	0.125	0.06–0.125
<i>C. posadasii</i> C735	0.004	0.03	>16	0.25	0.06–0.125
<i>C. posadasii</i> Silvera	0.008	8	>16	0.25	0.03

<sup>a</sup>The MIC value was read at 100% inhibition. FLC, fluconazole; AMB, amphotericin B; POS, posaconazole.

- Murine pulmonary coccidioidomycosis
  - 50 mg/kg bid + ABT starting d 7 and continuing for 5d
  - ~3-log reduction in lung CFU treated vs untreated controls
  - Reduced dissemination to spleen (1/10) vs controls (9/10); GM fungal burden 3.99 log<sub>10</sub>

# AmB Cochleates (MAT2203) (Matinas Biopharma)

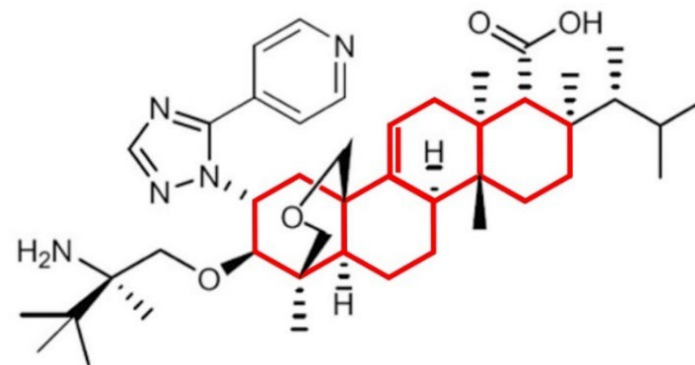
- Cochleate targeted nano-particle delivery
  - Reduced toxicity
  - Targeted delivery
  - Oral delivery
- MAT2203
  - Animal studies
  - Human Phase I tolerability
  - Phase 2 cryptococcal meningitis (EnACT) (NCT04031833)
    - Better tolerated than cAmB
    - Survival 90% vs 85% cAmB regimens
    - Good early fungicidal activity (EFA)





# Glucan Synthase Inhibitors: Ibrexafungerp – SCY-078 (Scynexis)

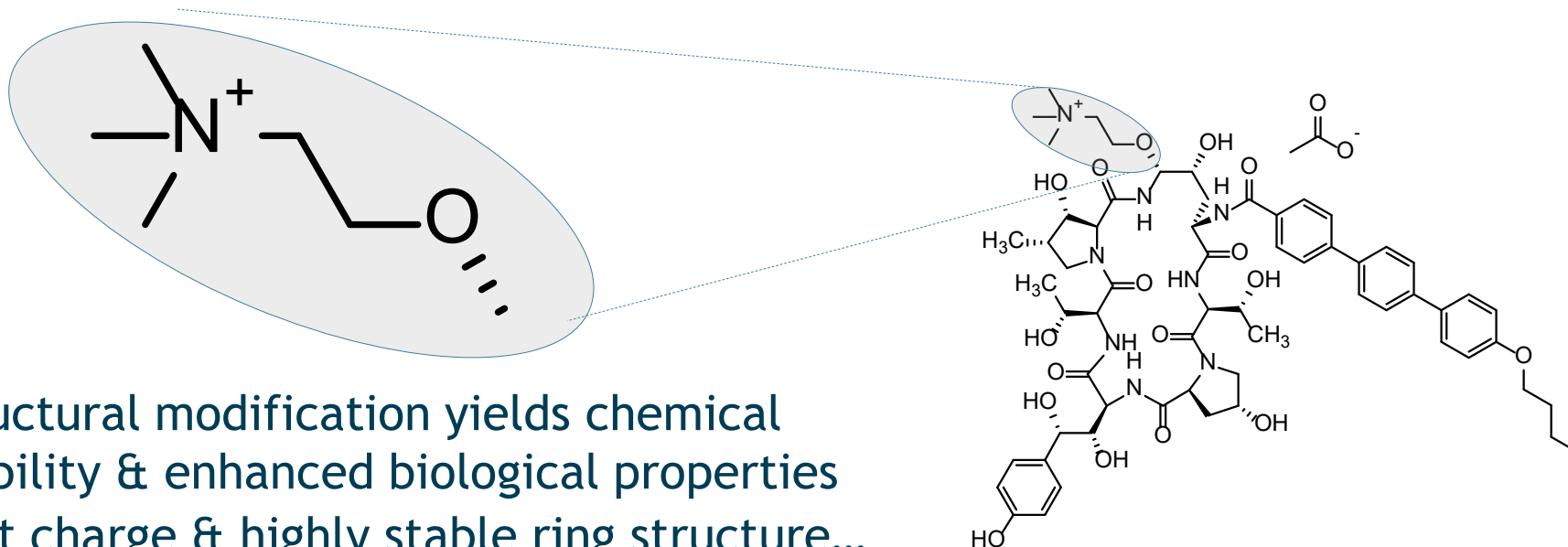
- Semi-synthetic derivative of natural product
  - New molecular class--triterpenoid
- Potent  $\beta$  1,3 glucan synthesis inhibitor (GSI)
  - Same target as echinocandin antifungals Blocks synthesis of essential component of cell wall of pathogenic fungi
  - Unique target not in mammalian cells
- Excellent in vitro & in vivo activity against *Candida* (including *C. auris*), *Aspergillus*, *Pneumocystis*, *Coccidioides*
  - Active in vitro against azole & echinocandin resistant *Candida* strains
- Orally bioavailable/IV in development
- Extensive tissue distribution: kidney, lungs



- Phase I/II - generally well tolerated with good pharmacokinetics (QD); low drug-drug interactions
- Phase III trial *C. auris* (CARES) NCT03363841
- Phase III trial IFI resistant/unresponsive to therapy (FURI) NCT03059992
  - Includes coccidioidomycosis
- FDA Approved Acute Vaginal Candidiasis and Recurrent VVC (VANISH/CANDLE) NCT 03734991/NCT03987620

# Rezafungin (CD101)

## A novel echinocandin antifungal (*Cidara*)



Structural modification yields chemical stability & enhanced biological properties

Permanent charge & highly stable ring structure...

- Prolongs PK: once weekly dosing
- Eliminates toxic degradation products: improved safety & dose range
- Allows high exposures: treats less susceptible pathogens
- Enables multiple formulations: systemic and topical

In vitro activity: *C. auris* including some echinocandin resistant strains

*Aspergillus* including azole resistant strains

✓ Phase 2/3 trials: candidemia vs caspo complete (STRIVE [NCT 02734862], RESTORE [NCT03667690])

Sofjan AK, et al. *J Glob Antimicrob Resist* 2018;Feb 24; Berkow EL, et al. *Diag Microbiol Antimicrob Resist* 2018;90:196-7; Wiederhold NP, et al. *J Antimicrob Chemother* 2018;doi:10.1093/jac/dky280; Thompson GR, et al. *Clin Infect Dis* 2021;73:e3647-66

# Sertraline

- Serotonin-reuptake inhibitor
  - Activity against other fungi (*Cryptococcus*)
- In vitro activity again *C. immitis* vs fluconazole and in combination

Drug	MIC (mcg/mL)			
fluconazole	4	8	16	32
sertraline	4	4	8	8
fluc + sert	4	2	4	4
	MFC (mcg/mL)			
fluconazole	4	16	16	32
sertraline	4	8	8	8
fluc + sert	2	4	4	4

- *Coccidioides* MIC (n=10): Flu 8-64 mcg/ml vs Sertraline 8 mcg/ml

# New Antifungals for Coccidioidomycosis: What Do We Need?

- Significant unmet medical needs: resistance, toxicity, drug interactions, oral bioavailability
- Many new potential targets and compounds under early & more advanced stages of investigation
  - New methods of delivery for old drugs
  - New uses for existing compounds
  - New agents in currently used classes
  - New compounds with novel mechanisms of action!

# Acknowledgments

AMoID/PCMid: Investigators

UTHSCSA

Nathan Wiederhold

Laura Najvar

Gabriel Catano

William R. Kirkpatrick

Brian Wickes

David Kadosh

Annette Fothergill

Fungus Testing Lab

Harbor-UCLA

Scott Filler

Ashraf Ibrahim

UTSA

ChiungYu Hung

NIAID

Dennis Dixon

Rory Duncan

Maliha Ilias

Erin Zeituni

Erica Raterman

Swee Teo

Dona Love



NIAID Grants/Contracts

AMoID/PCMid/In Vitro:

HHSN27201000038I

HHSN27200005 (A93)

HHSN27200006 (A98)

HSN27220100039I

HHSN27200004 (A20)

75N93019F00131 (A34)

75N93022F00001 (A65)

75N93019D00022

75N93012F00001(A13)

Grants:

U19AI166761 (Hung/López-Ribot)

R33/34AI140823 (López-Ribot)

R21AI140823 (López-Ribot)