# VentriGel Case Study: A myocardial ECM hydrogel for treating ischemic cardiomyopathy Karen L. Christman, PhD, FAHA **Department of Bioengineering** Sanford Consortium for Regenerative Medicine, UC San Diego

Disclosure: Co-Founder, consultant, and board member of Ventrix, Inc.

## VentriGel



Porcine Heart



Liquid matrix



Decellularized cardiac ECM



Lyophilized, milled ECM



In vivo self-assembly





Singelyn, DeQuach et al, Biomaterials 2009

## **VentriGel Improves Cardiac Function Post-MI**

- Improved global and regional cardiac function in porcine MI model
- Decreased left ventricular end-systolic and end-diastolic volumes
- Complex mechanism of action
- Increased cardiac muscle and reduce fibrosis



Seif-Naraghi et al, Science Translational Medicine, 2013; Singelyn et al, JACC 2012; Wassenaar et al, JACC, 2016

# Phase 1: Study Design

	Title:	CV-201 - A Study of VentriGel in Early and Late Post-myocardial Infarction Patients						
	Subjects:	15 subjects (all treated)						
	Patients:	Index MI 60 days to 3 years prior and treated with PCI						
		25% <ef<45% (by="" and="" cmr)<="" echo="" td=""></ef<45%>						
	<b>Delivery:</b> catheter	Catheter, transendocardial delivery via NOGA/Myostar						
	Assessments:	At baseline, 3 and 6 months						
		Cardiac MR, 6MWT, NYHA Functional classification, MLWHFQ, BNP						
	Duration:	12 months with visits at baseline, 1, 2, 4, 12 and 24 weeks Phone call at 12 months						
	Safety:	Adverse events, SAEs, clinical chemistries, vital signs TTEM, Holter monitoring, 12-lead ECG						
•	Efficacy:	Change from baseline: EF, ESV, EDV, infarct size, viable tissue, perfusion, BNP, 6MWT, MLWHFQ						
U	Clinical Frais.gov Identifier: NC102305602							



Digested Porcine Extracellular Matrix 36 mg Derived from Porcine Hearts For intracatheter intra

# Phase 1 Results

15 patients treated with VentriGel

**Primary Endpoint: Safety:** 

VentriGel has been well-tolerated

#### Secondary Endpoints:

Encouraging efficacy signals

- Statistically significant improvements in 6 min walk test
- Symptoms score trending toward improvement
- 10 out of 14 improved in ESV or EDV on cMR



meters

6 months

**Change NYHA** 





## Early vs. Late MI Patients

Ventrix CV-201 NYHA Age/ Months Base Row Identifier Gender post-MI 35.5 02/206 65/M 1 1 2 02/203 67/M 35 2 3 02/201 59/M 23 1 4 22 3 02/205 59/M 5 04/403 46/M 20 1 6 07/702 56/M 18 2 7 2 03/301 69/M 14 8 01/104 67/F 11 2 9 06/601 46/F 11 2 10 04/404 62/M 8.5 3 11 02/207 62/M 7 1 12 03/304 45/M 2 6 2 01/103 13 69/F 4 2 14 04/401 51/F 4 2 15 04/402 63/M 3

pre 12 mo Change LVESV







post 12 mo Change LVEDV





# **Disease Severity**

Overall improvements at 6 months evident for the whole population

Particularly strong in the 180-300 mL range of LVEDV at Baseline

Population	EDV	ESV	6MWT	NYHA	MLWHFQ	BNP	Scar	Viable	Scar%
All	+	0	+	+	+	-	-	+	-
LVEDV<180	0	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+
LVEDV 180-300	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+
LVEDV>300	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	-

Legend

improved (i.e. decreased in: EDV, ESV, NYHA, MLWHFQ, BNP; increased: 6MWT)

0 no change

worsened (i.e. Increased in: EDV, ESV, NYHA, MLWHFQ, BNP; decreased: 6MWT;



## **Challenges on Regulatory Approval Pathway**

Complex Mechanism of Action

↓ cell death

- ↓ hypertrophy
- ↑ immunomodulatory response
- ↑ metabolic processes
- blood vessel development
- ↑ heart development





Wassenaar et al, JACC, 2016

## **Challenges on Regulatory Approval Pathway**

- Need activity assay for Phase III and approval
  - How does one adequately show bioactivity with a simple in vitro assay when there is a complex mechanism of action?
    - Variability with regenerative medicine products
    - Variability with cells in culture
    - No direct link to activity *in vivo*
- Difficult to develop antibody assays for complex products
- Given good safety profiles, more leeway is needed on approvable endpoints
  - Post-market monitoring to better understand efficacy with a large more variable population



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#### **Collaborators**

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