# Efficacy Signals of 4-Week Oral DUR-928 in NASH Subjects



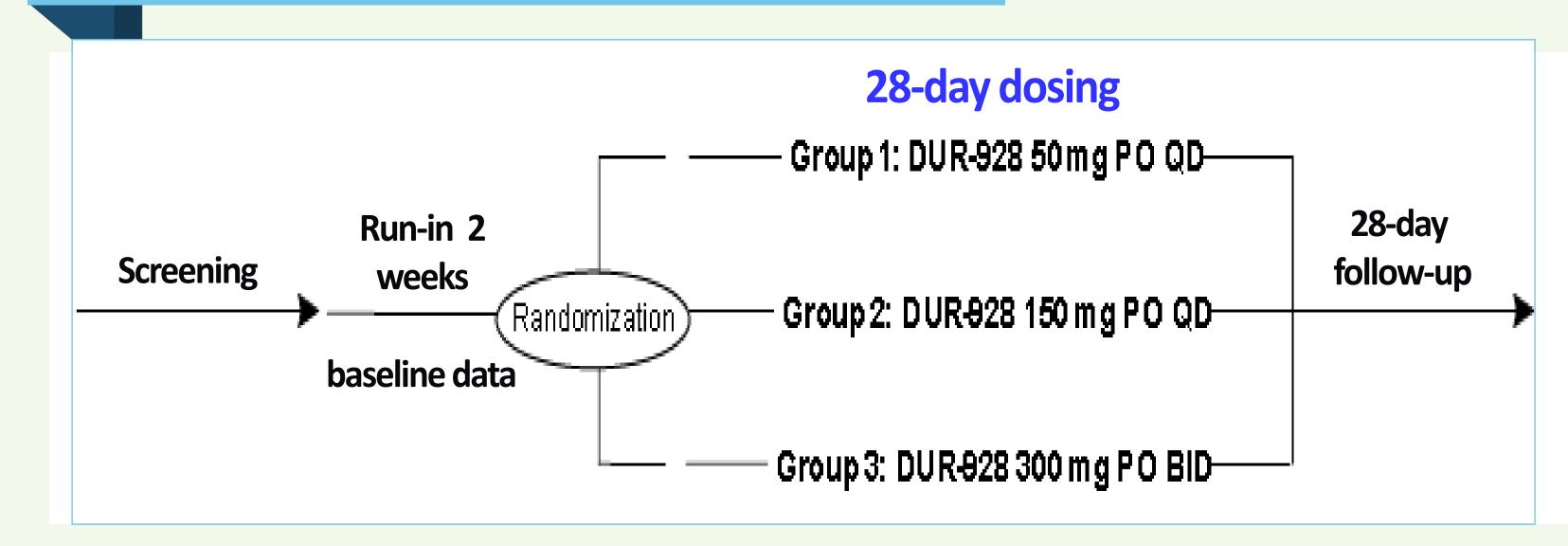
Eric Lawitz<sup>1</sup>, Terek Hassanein<sup>2</sup>, Douglas Denham<sup>3</sup>, Michael Waters<sup>4</sup>, Brian Borg<sup>5</sup>, Gwenaelle Mille<sup>6</sup>, Deborah Scott<sup>6</sup>, Andy Miksztal<sup>6</sup>, John Culwell<sup>6</sup>, Dave Ellis<sup>6</sup>, Jim Brown<sup>6</sup>, and WeiQi Lin<sup>6</sup>

- 1. Texas Liver Institute, San Antonio, TX; 2. Southern California Research Institute, Coronado, CA; 3. Clinical Trials of Texas, Inc. San Antonio, TX; 4. eStudySite, Chula Vista, CA; 5. Southern Therapy and Advanced Research, Jackson, MS;
- 6. DURECT Corporation, Cupertino, CA

#### Background

- 1. The pathogenesis of Non-alcoholic Steatohepatitis (NASH) involves numerous dysregulated pathways
- 2. Lipotoxicity, oxidative stress, and mitochondrial toxicity in the setting of an active innate immune response are likely contributors to the development of NASH
- **3.** DUR-928, 5-cholesten-3β, 25-diol 3-sulfate, is
- Endogenous, highly conserved across all 7 mammals tested to date
- Epigenetic regulator, inhibiting DNA methyltransferase (DNMT) 1, 3a & 3b, regulating expression of genes involved in multiple critical cell signaling pathways:
- stabilizes mitochondria
- reduces lipotoxicity
- modulates inflammatory or stress responses
- promotes cell survival and tissue regeneration
- Well tolerated in nearly 300 subjects in multiple Phase 1 & 2 studies at all doses tested via oral, IM and IV administration
- 4. We previously reported that daily oral DUR-928 for 4 weeks in subjects with NASH resulted in overall improvement in liver enzymes, liver fat content by MRI-PDFF, serum lipid profiles, and certain biomarkers. Here we present additional data of efficacy signals from this trial.

### **Trial Scheme**



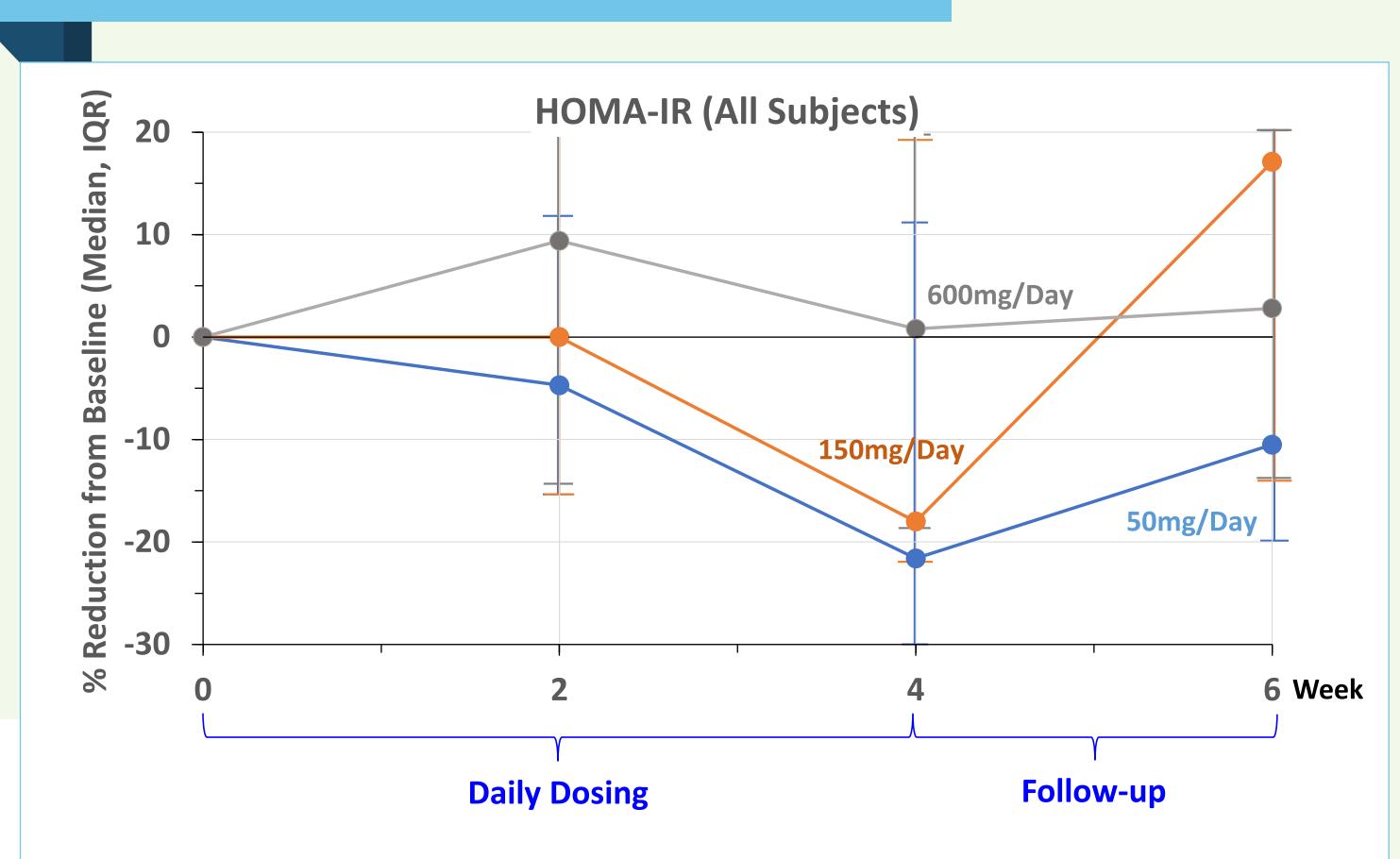
## Acknowledgement

- Our research teams and staff at participating centers
- DURECT Research & Development Team, including Judy Joice, Roger Ruaboro, Dr. Hongwei Wu, and Dr. William Krebs for their valuable contributions

#### Methods

- Multi-center in US, open-label, Phase 1b trial
- 28 days daily oral dosing of DUR-928 at 50 mg QD, 150 mg
   QD, and 300 mg BID (or 600 mg/day)
- NASH (fibrosis stage 1-3), N=65
- Key endpoints:
  - 1. Safety / PK
  - 2. Clinical chemistry and biomarkers (e.g., ALT, AST, GGT, triglycerides, Non-HDL-C, CRP, CK-18s, PAI-1, inflammatory cytokines)
  - 3. Imaging (e.g., MRI-PDFF, TE by FibroScan®, and MRE)

#### **Results: Insulin Resistance**



Median (% from	50 mg / day			150 mg / day			600 mg / day		
	Daily Dosing		Follow-up	Daily Dosing		Follow-up	Daily Dosing		Follow-up
Baseline)	2 Week	4 Week	6 Week	2 Week	4 Week	6 Week	2 Week	4 Week	6 Week
All Subjects	-4.7	-21.6	-10.5	0	-18.0	17.1	9.4	0.8	2.8
n	23	21	20	21	21	20	21	20	21
Subjects with ≥ -10% in PDFF	-12.8	-20.9	8.9	-13.8	-10.9	22.7	15.2	2.4	20
n	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9

## Results: Biochemical and Imaging

Overall Improvement in Liver Enzymes<sup>1</sup>, Liver fat<sup>1</sup>, Serum Lipids<sup>1</sup>, Cell Death Markers<sup>1</sup>, Liver Stiffness, and Liver Fibrosis Markers

% Change from baseline (median) at the end of dosing (Day 28)

Median at Day 28			All Subjects		Subjects with ≥ 10% Reduction in MRI-PDFF					
		<u>50 mg QD</u> (n=21-23)	150 mg QD (n=20-21)	300 mg BID (n=20-21)	<u>50 mg QD</u> (n=9)	150 mg QD (n=8)	300 mg BID (n=9)			
Liver Enzymes	ALT	-16%*	-10%	-17%***	-21%**	-19%*	-32%***			
	AST	-14%	-9%	-18%**	-24%**	-21%	-39%***			
	GGT	-6%	-1%	-8%*	-13%***	-16%*	-14%			
Liver Fat & Stiffness	MRI-PDFF	-7%	-7%	-4%	-18%***	-19%***	-23%***			
	FibroScan <sub>®</sub>	-10%**	-9%	-1%	-7%	-9%**	-9%			
	MRE	-6%	4%	0%	-8%	2%	0%			
	Pro-C3	-8%	-1%	-5%	-8%*	-4%	-12%*			
	ELF	-2%	-1%	-1%	-2%	-2%	-3%			
Serum Lipids	LDL-C	-6%	-11%*	-7%	-7%	-11%	-8%*			
	Non-HDL-C	-8%	-5%	-1%	-10%	-8%*	-12%*			
	Triglycerides	-13%*	-3%	-2%	-9%	0%	-8%			
	24% reduction in serum triglycerides in patients with elevated baseline triglycerides (≥200 mg/dL; n=16) across all dose									
	groups at day 28 from baseline (p < 0.01)									
Cell Death Marker	CK18, M30	-14.6%	-8.6%	-16.1%	-22.8%***	-3.8%	-42.1%*			
	CK18, M65	-18.1%	-9.9%	-35.0%	-28.1%***	-8.7%	-55.8%*			

\* p < 0.05; \*\* p < 0.01; \*\*\* p < 0.001

1. Lawitz et al.: Safety and Efficacy Signals of Daily Oral DUR-928 for 4-Weeks in F1-F3 NASH. AASLD 2020 Poster No. 1693

## Summary

- As previously reported, DUR-928 was well tolerated by all subjects with F1-F3
   NASH in the study. There was an overall improvement in liver enzymes, liver fat
   content by MRI-PDFF, serum lipid profiles, liver fat by MRI-PDFF, and cell death
   markers
- Here we show additional data of an overall improvement in liver stiffness by TE, MRE, and the liver fibrosis marker, pro-C3, as well as insulin resistance by HOMA-IR
- The results, together with a previously reported study in F1-F4 NASH subjects\*, suggest that epigenetic regulation of gene expression and their signaling pathways is an attractive approach to treat NASH
- The results warrant further study of DUR-928 in subjects with metabolic disorders, such as NASH
- \* Kemp et al., Safety and pharmacokinetics of DUR-928 in patients with non-alcoholic steatohepatitis A Phase 1b study. EASL 2017 Poster