

Advancing Gene Editing Medicines from N=1 to N=many: the Unique Urgency and Opportunity of the Present Moment

Fyodor Urnov

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Director, IGI-Danaher Beacon for CRISPR Cures

Director, CZI-IGI Center for Pediatric CRISPR Cures

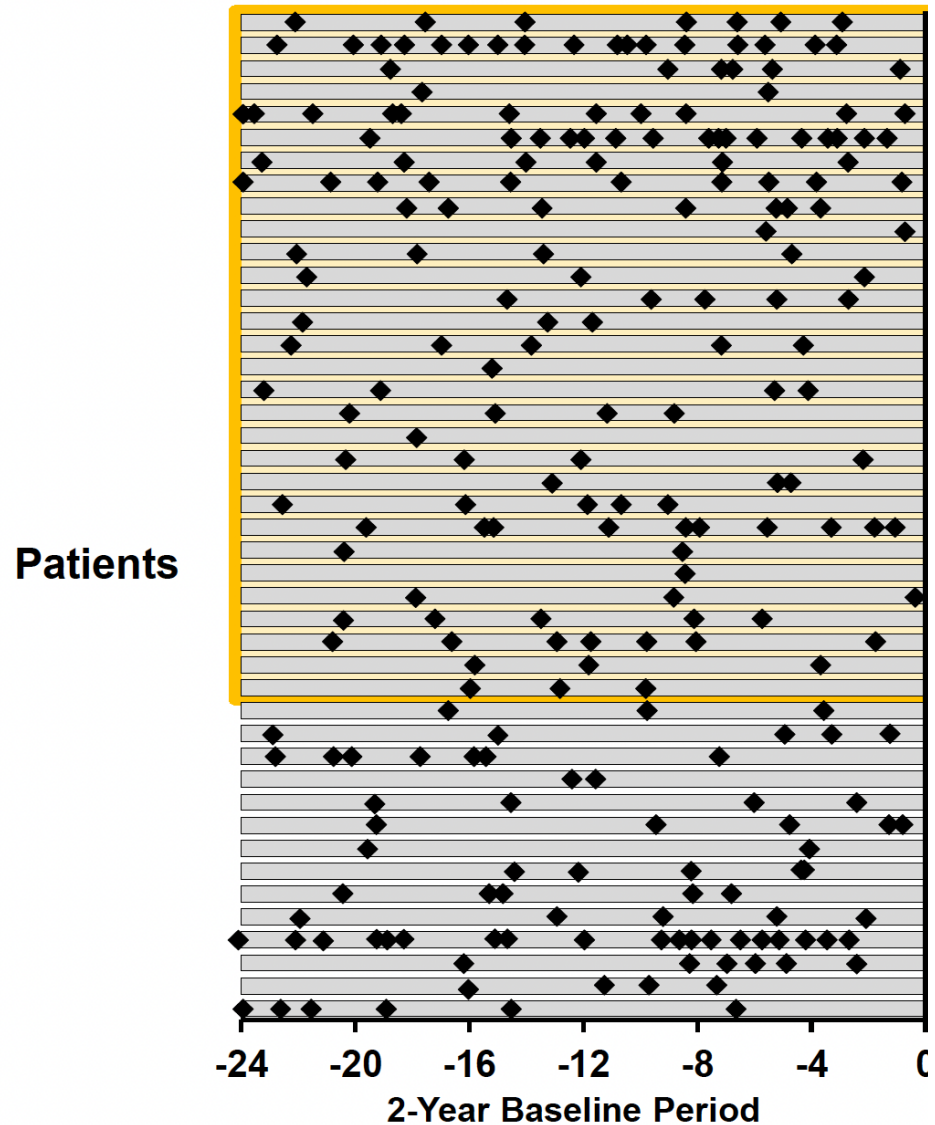


Fyodor Urnov: disclosures

- Cimeio Therapeutics: SAB chair, paid advisor, hold equity
- Evox Therapeutics: SAB member, paid advisor
- Ionis Pharmaceuticals: paid advisor
- Tune Therapeutics: scientific co-founder, paid advisor, hold equity
- Aurora Therapeutics: scientific co-founder, paid advisor, hold equity
- Vertex Pharmaceuticals: paid consultant on exa-cel program
- Danaher Corporation: salary and research support for work as Director of the IGI-Danaher Beacon for CRISPR Cures

Exa-cel Exhibited Durable Effect in Avoiding Inpatient Hospitalizations Due to VOCs

CO-24





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CASGEVY

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STN: 125787, 125785

Proper Name: exagamglogene Autotemcel (exa-cel)

Tradename: CASGEVY

Manufacturer: Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated

Indication:

- STN 125787 - Treatment of sickle cell disease (SCD) in patients 12 years and older with recurrent vaso occlusive crises (VOCs).
- STN 125785 - Indicated for the treatment of patients aged 12 years and older with sickle cell disease (SCD) with recurrent vaso occlusive crises (VOCs) and transfusion-dependent β -thalassemia (TDT).



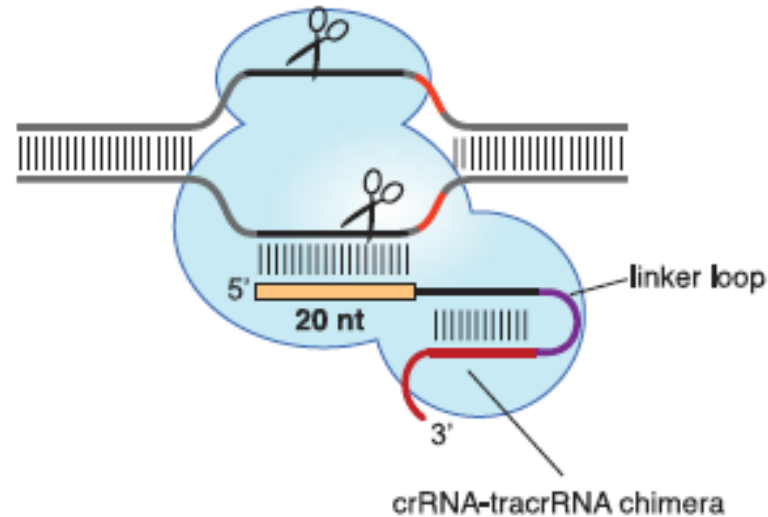
Victoria Gray

June 28 2012

A Programmable Dual-RNA-Guided DNA Endonuclease in Adaptive Bacterial Immunity

Martin Jinek,^{1,2*} Krzysztof Chylinski,^{3,4*} Ines Fonfara,⁴ Michael Hauer,^{2†}
Jennifer A. Doudna,^{1,2,5,6‡} Emmanuelle Charpentier^{4‡}

Cas9 programmed by single chimeric RNA



We ... show that the Cas9 endonuclease can be programmed ... to target and cleave **any dsDNA sequence of interest** ... by changing the DNA target-binding sequence in the guide chimeric RNA. ... Cas9 ... **could offer considerable potential** for gene-targeting and genome-editing applications.

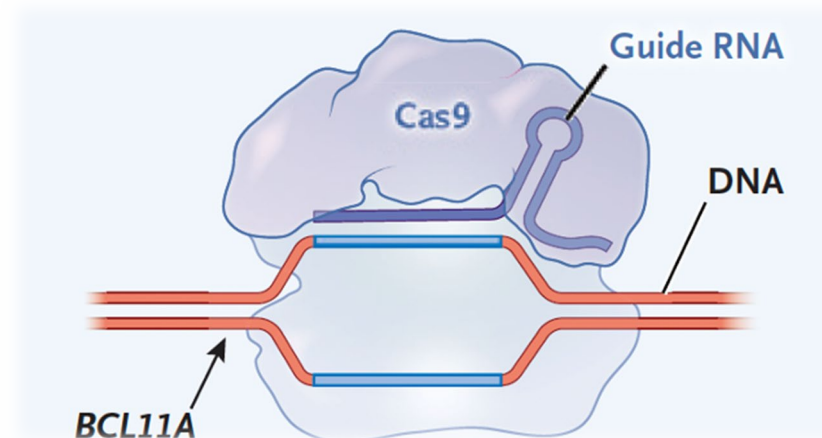
December 5 2020

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

BRIEF REPORT

CRISPR-Cas9 Gene Editing for Sickle Cell Disease and β -Thalassemia

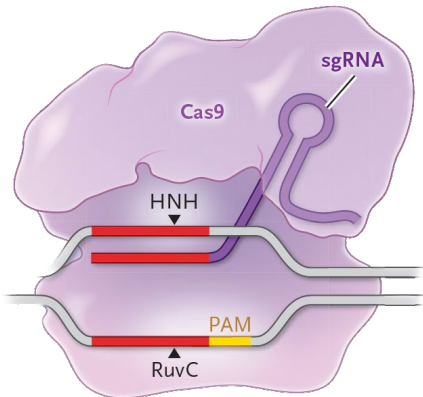
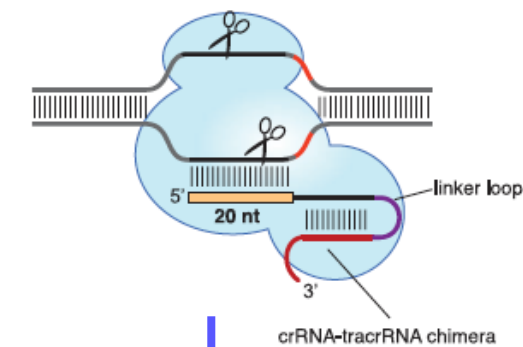
H. Frangoul, D. Altshuler, M.D. Cappellini, Y.-S. Chen, J. Domm, B.K. Eustace, J. Foell, J. de la Fuente, S. Grupp, R. Handgretinger, T.W. Ho, A. Kattamis, A. Kernytsky, J. Lekstrom-Himes, A.M. Li, F. Locatelli, M.Y. Mapara, M. de Montalembert, D. Rondelli, A. Sharma, S. Sheth, S. Soni, M.H. Steinberg, D. Wall, A. Yen, and S. Corbacioglu



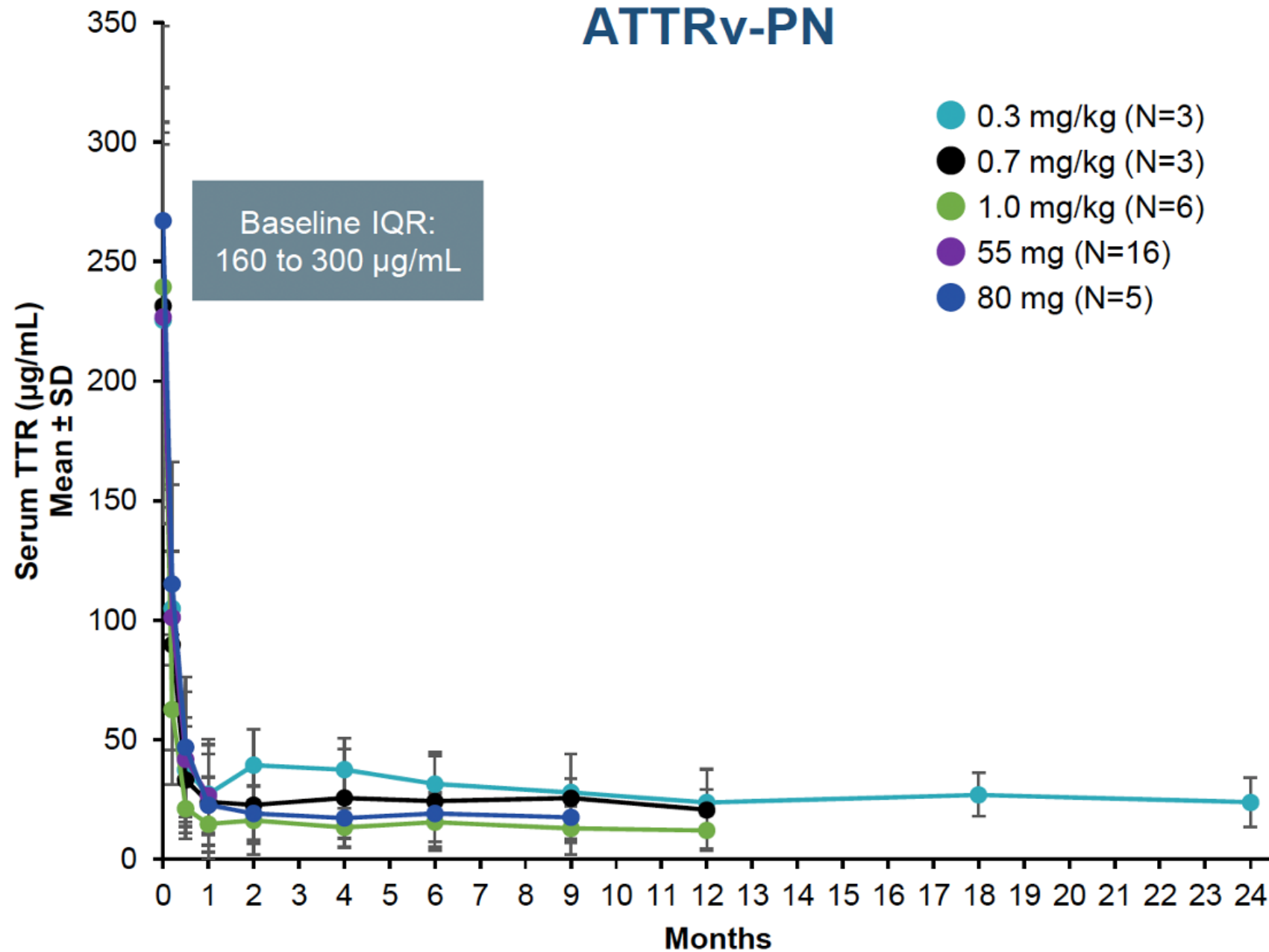
Classified as internal/staff & contractors by the European Medicines Agency



Cas9 programmed by single chimeric RNA



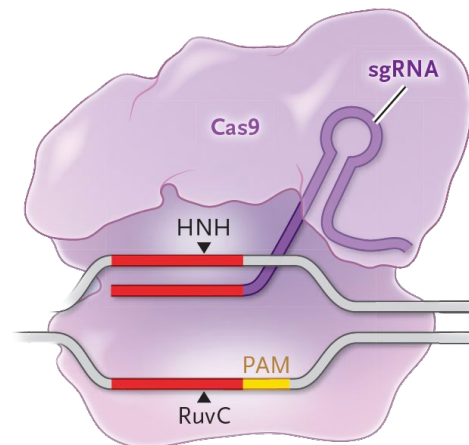
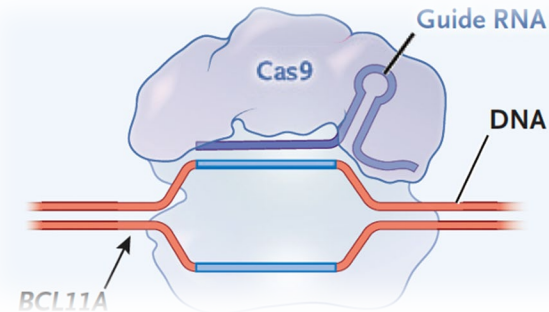
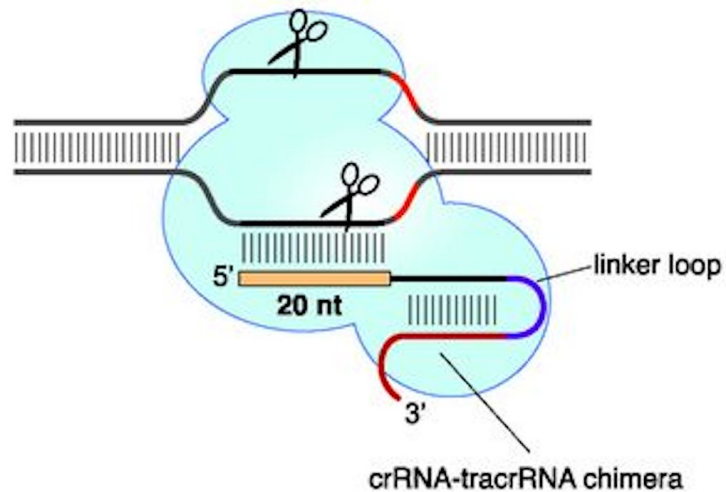
ATTRv-PN



CRISPR-Cas Gene Editing Has Exceeded Expectations as a One-Time Curative Treatment for Severe Mendelian Disease in Four Indications



Cas9 programmed by single chimeric RNA



The Genome Editors' Toolbox Is In “Superbloom”

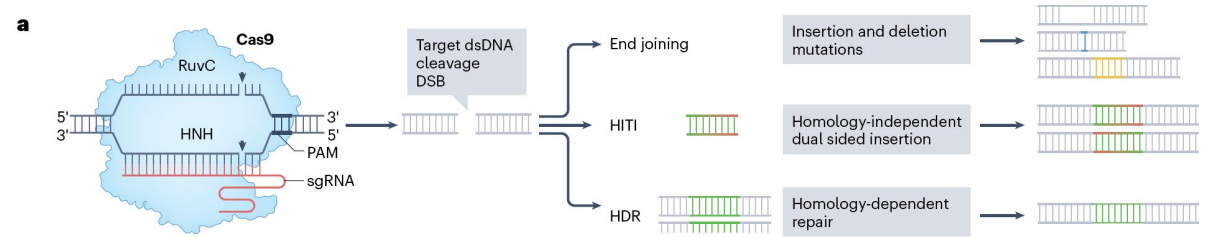




Table 1. Mendelian disease indications currently in the development pipeline of publicly traded gene-editing companies relying on CRISPR-Cas technology

<i>Company</i>	<i>Mendelian disease indications in the clinic</i>	<i>Entering clinic in 2025</i>
Editas Medicine	Sickle cell disease and transfusion-dependent beta-thalassemia (TDT)	None
CRISPR Therapeutics	Familial hypercholesterolemia (FH) + 3 related	Acute hepatic porphyria
Intellia Therapeutics	TTR amyloidosis (ph 3)	None
	Hereditary angioedema (ph 3)	
	Alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency (targeted integration)	
	Factor IX deficiency (targeted integration)	
Beam Therapeutics	Sickle cell disease and TDT	None
	Alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency (E342K mutation)	
	Glycogen storage disease 1A (R83C mutation)	
Verve Therapeutics	Heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia (FH)	Homozygous FH
Prime Medicine	Chronic granulomatous disease (A314B mutation)	None

All information obtained from company web sites on Oct 7, 2024. Approved (e.g., Casgevy), oncology [i.e., chimeric antigen receptor T cell (CAR-T)], and common (e.g., cardiovascular) disease indications are not included.



Table 1. Mendelian disease indications currently in the development pipeline of publicly traded gene-editing companies relying on CRISPR-Cas technology

<i>Company</i>	<i>Mendelian disease indications in the clinic</i>	<i>Entering clinic in 2025</i>
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Verve Therapeutics	Heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia (FH)	Homozygous FH
Prime Medicine	Alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, Wilsons Disease	

Pipeline contraction is *not* driven by CRISPR technology limitations:

the challenge of clinic-grade on-target potency and genome-wide specificity has been robustly addressed.

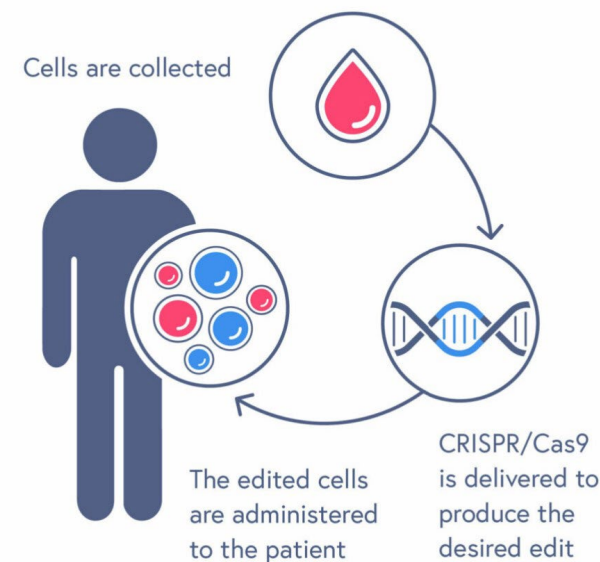
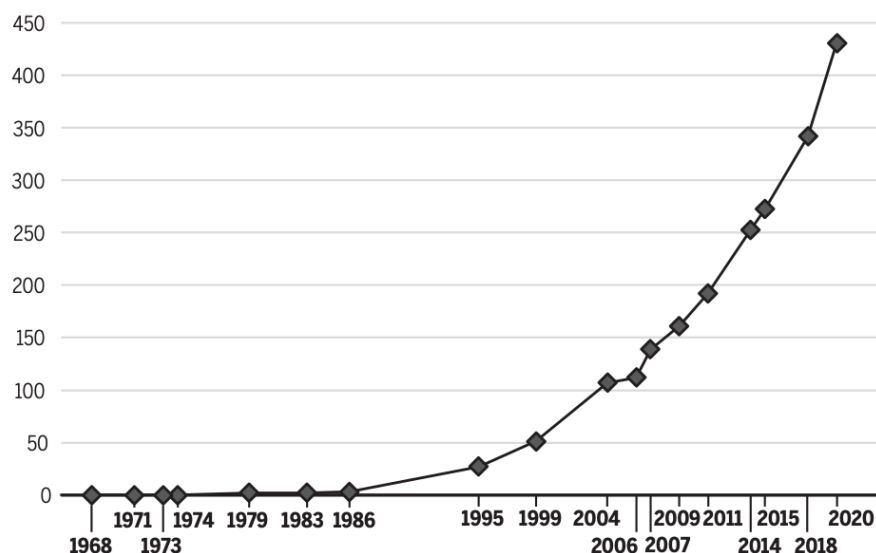
Despite Patient Availability As Well as Technical and Clinical Tractability, There Are ZERO Trials for CRISPR Gene Editing in the IELs



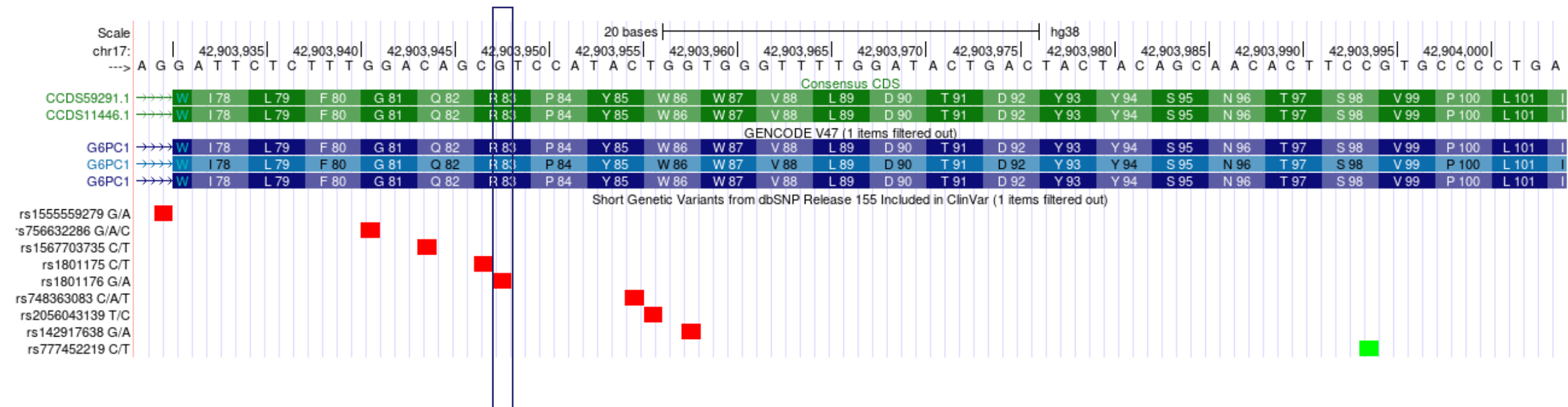
> 110,000 known persons living with IELs + > 500 known IELs and growing! + Casgevy manufacturing process = 0

1. ADA (Adenosine deaminase deficiency), AR	1.	575
2. AK2 (AK2 Defect), AR	2.	42
3. B2M (MHC class I deficiency), AR	3.	11
4. BCL10 (BCL10 deficiency), AR	4.	4
5. CARD 11 (CARD11 deficiency), AR LOF	5.	31
6. CD3D (CD3 α deficiency), AR	6.	54
7. CD3E (CD3 ϵ deficiency), AR	7.	26
8. CD3G (CD3 γ deficiency), AR	8.	13
9. CD3Z (CD3 ζ deficiency), AR	9.	6
10. CD40 (CD40 deficiency), AR	10.	104
11. CD40LG (CD40 ligand (CD154) deficiency), XL	11.	686
12. CD8A (CD8 deficiency), AR	12.	18
13. CIITA (MHC class II deficiency group A, B, C, D), AR	13.	97
14. CORO1A (Coronin-1A deficiency), AR	14.	15
15. DCLRE1C (Artemis deficiency), AR	15.	268
16. DOCK2 (DOCK2 deficiency), AR	16.	21
17. DOCK8 (DOCK8 deficiency), AR	17.	509
18. FCHO1 (FCHO1 deficiency), AR	18.	10
19. ICOS (ICOS deficiency), AR	19.	28
20. ICOSLG (ICOSL deficiency), AR	20.	3
21. IKBKB (IKBKB deficiency), AR	21.	32
22. IKZF1 (IKAROS deficiency), AD DN	22.	35
23. IL21 (IL-21 deficiency), AR	23.	2
24. IL21R (IL-21R deficiency), AR	24.	21
25. IL2RG (α c Deficiency, γ c SCID, CD132 deficiency), XL	25.	818
26. IL7R (IL7R α deficiency), AR	26.	208
27. ITK (ITK deficiency), AR	27.	34
28. JAK3 (JAK3 deficiency), AR	28.	250
29. LAT (LAT deficiency), AR	29.	1
30. LCK (LCK deficiency), AR	30.	3

...



Glycogen storage disease 1A (R83C mutation)



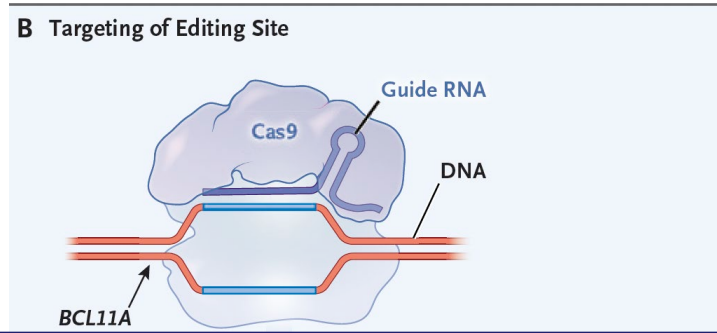


Classification of Glycogen Storage Disorder

GSDs that primarily affect the liver include the following:

- Glycogen synthase-2 deficiency (GSD type 0a)
- Glucose-6-phosphatase deficiency (GSD type Ia)
- Glucose-6-phosphate transporter deficiency (GSD type Ib)
- Glycogen debrancher deficiency (GSD type III)
- Glycogen branching enzyme deficiency (GSD type IV)
- Liver phosphorylase deficiency (GSD type VI)
- Phosphorylase kinase deficiency (GSD type IXa)
- GLUT2 deficiency or Fanconi-Bickel disease

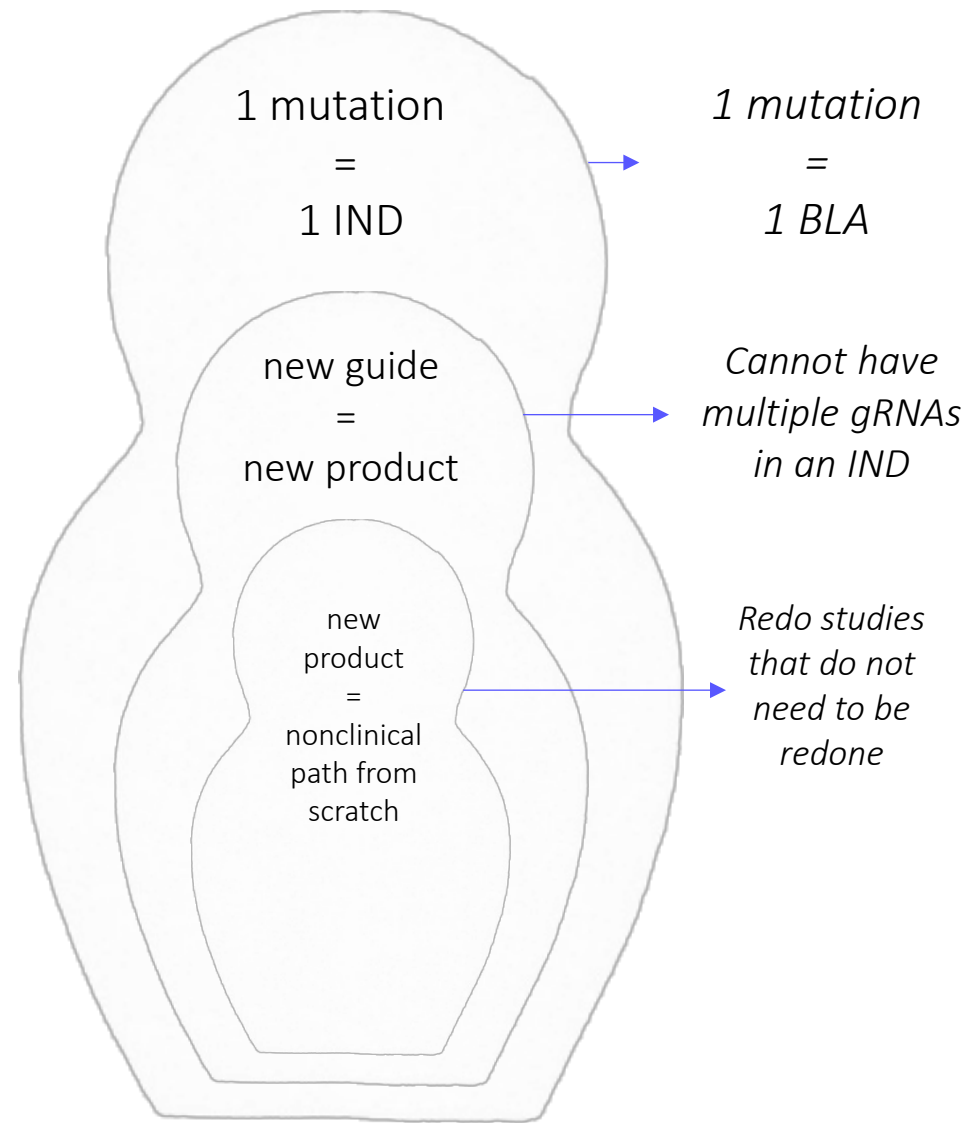
The APIs in Casgevy – Cas9 protein and gRNA – are a specific molecular entity that can be used to near-any person living with SCD or TDT

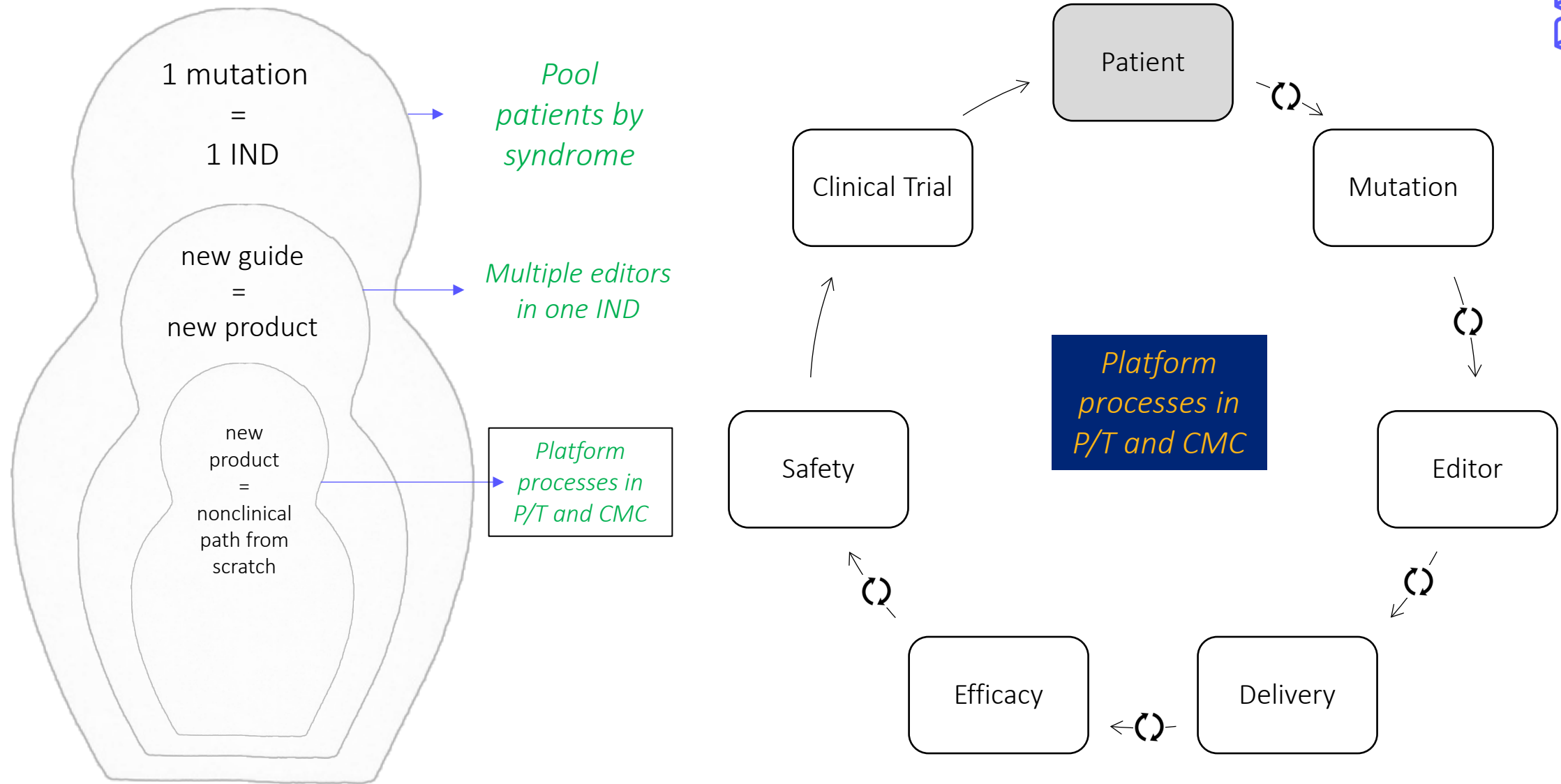


Under the current system a vial of an approved CRISPR medicine has to contain a single, specific guide RNA. A vial of a CRISPR cure for glycogen storage disease will thus treat a fraction of patients suffering from GSDs.

To make CRISPR cures successful we have to change that and we WILL.







$$1 - 0 = 1$$

$$2 - 1 < 1$$

$$3 - 2 <<< 1$$

2022: Intellia Therapeutics

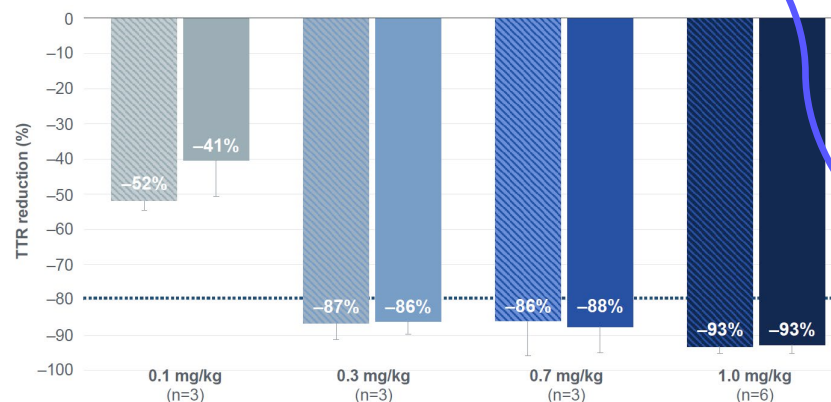
A Programmable Dual-RNA-Guided DNA Endonuclease in Adaptive Bacterial Immunity

Martin Jinek,^{1,2*} Krzysztof Chylinski,^{3,4*} Ines Fonfara,⁴ Michael Hauer,^{2†}
Jennifer A. Doudna,^{1,2,5,6‡} Emmanuelle Charpentier^{4‡}

CRISPR-Cas9 can be programmed to cut a specific sequence of DNA
in a patient by simply changing the guide RNA

Disease 1: TTR Amyloidosis

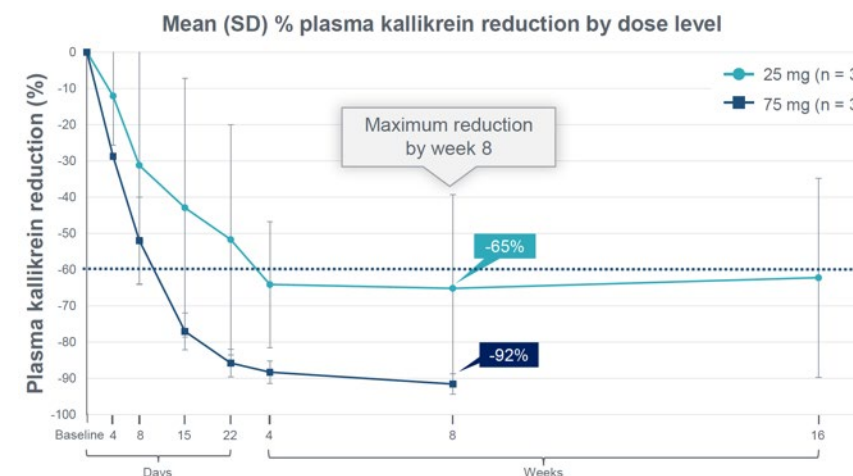
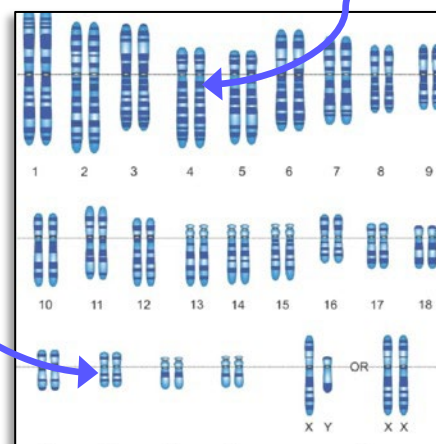
Gene: ATTR on chr 20a



93% target gene knockout in patient liver

Disease 2: Hereditary Angioedema

Gene: KLKB1 on chr 4



92% target gene knockdown in patient liver



Q: your personal dream for CRISPR in next 5-10 years?

A: For CRISPR to become the standard of medical care for certain diseases.

Platform solutions for commercial challenges to expanding patient access and making gene editing sustainable



Sadik H. Kassim, Fyodor Urnov, Kiran Musunuru, Ann Lee, Luis Barrera, Pamela Stetkiewicz, Julianne Bruno, Matthew Hewitt, Troy Lister, Harry Malech, Lindsay Gasch, Matt Diver, Nicholas Gertler, Felix Grignon, Audrey Le, Michael Lehmicke, Edwin M. Horwitz, David R. Liu, Josephine Lembong & Vanessa Almendro-Navarro



Platform-based approaches for gene-editing therapies could markedly improve development efficiency, reduce costs and increase access for patients with rare diseases. Although gene editing has shown remarkable clinical success for a small number of Mendelian disease indications, broader adoption faces substantial hurdles. We propose strategies to overcome these challenges through modular platforms for nonclinical and chemistry, manufacturing and controls (CMC) data reuse, risk-based manufacturing quality, and streamlined umbrella clinical trials for regulatory efficiency and accelerated approval.

Advancing gene-editing platforms to improve the viability of rare-disease therapeutics: key insights from a 2024 Scientific Exchange hosted by ARM, ISCT, and Danaher

Fyodor Urnov^{1,§}, Sadik Kassim^{2,§}, Kiran Musunuru³, David Liu^{4,5,6}, Ann Lee⁷, Luis Barrera⁸, Pam Stetkiewicz⁹, Julianne Bruno¹⁰, Matthew Hewitt¹¹, Troy Lister¹², Harry Malech¹³, Lindsay Gasch¹⁴, Matt Diver¹⁵, Nicholas Gertler¹⁵, Felix Grignon¹⁶, Audrey Le¹⁶, Michael Lehmicke¹⁷, Vanessa Almendro-Navarro^{2,†}, Josephine Lembong^{17,†,*}

¹ Innovative Genomics Institute, University of California, Berkeley, California, USA

² Danaher Corporation, Washington, District of Columbia, USA

³ Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

⁴ Merkin Institute of Transformative Technologies in Healthcare, Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

⁵ Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

⁶ Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

⁷ Prime Medicine, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

⁸ Beam Therapeutics, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

⁹ Arbor Biotechnologies, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

¹⁰ CRISPR Therapeutics, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

¹¹ Charles River Laboratories, Wilmington, Massachusetts, USA

¹² Verve Therapeutics, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

¹³ National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, USA

¹⁴ Capstone Medical Writing & Communications, Lander, Wyoming, USA

¹⁵ Galen/Atlantica, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

¹⁶ International Society for Cell & Gene Therapy, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

¹⁷ Alliance for Regenerative Medicine, Washington, District of Columbia, USA

*Correspondence: Josephine Lembong, Alliance for Regenerative Medicine, 1015 18th Street NW, Suite 1102, Washington, DC 20036, USA. E-mail address: jlembong@alliancerm.org (J. Lembong).

§Co-first authors.

†Co-senior authors.

Nature Biotechnology 2025

Cytherapy 2025

Table 3
Basic details of gene-editing platform case studies.

Presenting academic institution/sponsor/CDMO	Gene-editor/editing method	Delivery vehicle	Target cell type	Disease target
Innovative Genomics Institute/ Danaher Corporation	CRISPR/Cas nuclease ^a	Electroporation (<i>ex vivo</i>) ^a	T cell ^a	Inherited hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis
University of Pennsylvania	Base editor	LNP (<i>in vivo</i>)	Hepatocytes	Urea cycle disorder
Beam Therapeutics	Base editor	LNP (<i>in vivo</i>)	Hepatocytes	Glycogen storage disease type 1a
Prime Medicine	Prime editor	LNP (<i>in vivo</i>)	Hepatocytes	Wilson's disease ^a
Verve Therapeutics	Not specified	LNP (<i>in vivo</i>)	Not specified	Not specified
Arbor Biotechnologies	Small CRISPR/Cas nuclease	AAV (<i>in vivo</i>)	Motor neurons	Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
CRISPR Therapeutics	CRISPR/Cas9 ^a	LNP (<i>in vivo</i>)	HSCs	Sickle cell disease ^a
Charles River Laboratories ^b	CRISPR/Cas9	Electroporation (<i>ex vivo</i>)	T cells	N/A

Table 2. A Stepwise path to expand gene editing in the clinic

<i>Approach</i>	<i>v1</i>
Genes edited	One
Editing enzyme	One
Guide RNA	One
Patients eligible	5%

Urnov F. (2024) Give Cas a Chance: an Actionable Path to a Platform For CRISPR Cures. *The CRISPR Journal* 7: 212-219.
Urnov, Kassim, et al (2025) Advancing gene-editing platforms to improve the viability of rare-disease therapeutics. *Cytotherapy*. 24: S1465

Benefit-risk proportionate
development of CRISPR
on-demand

“Benefit-risk appropriate path”



Dr Rebecca
Ahrens-niklas
CHOP



Drs Cowan & Puck
UCSF



Dr Donald Kohn
UCLA



Dr Michelle Hermiston
UCSF



Dr Claire Booth
GOSH

Open IND for
CRISPR in severe
pediatric disease



Newborn
diagnosed with a
new mutation



Child dosed before
death or severe
disability

Case report: HLH due to PRF1 mutation



A 26-month-old previously well boy was brought to the emergency room by his parents with sudden onset of fever, runny nose (rhinorrhea), and decreased activity.

On hospital day 2, the patient developed a decreased level of consciousness and began seizing.

Diagnosed with hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH).

[compound heterozygous point mutations in *PRF1*]

On day 42, ... developed acute pulmonary hemorrhage.

Despite extensive resuscitation efforts, the patient developed asystole and **died on day 44.**

Michelle Hermiston MD PhD

UCSF Health



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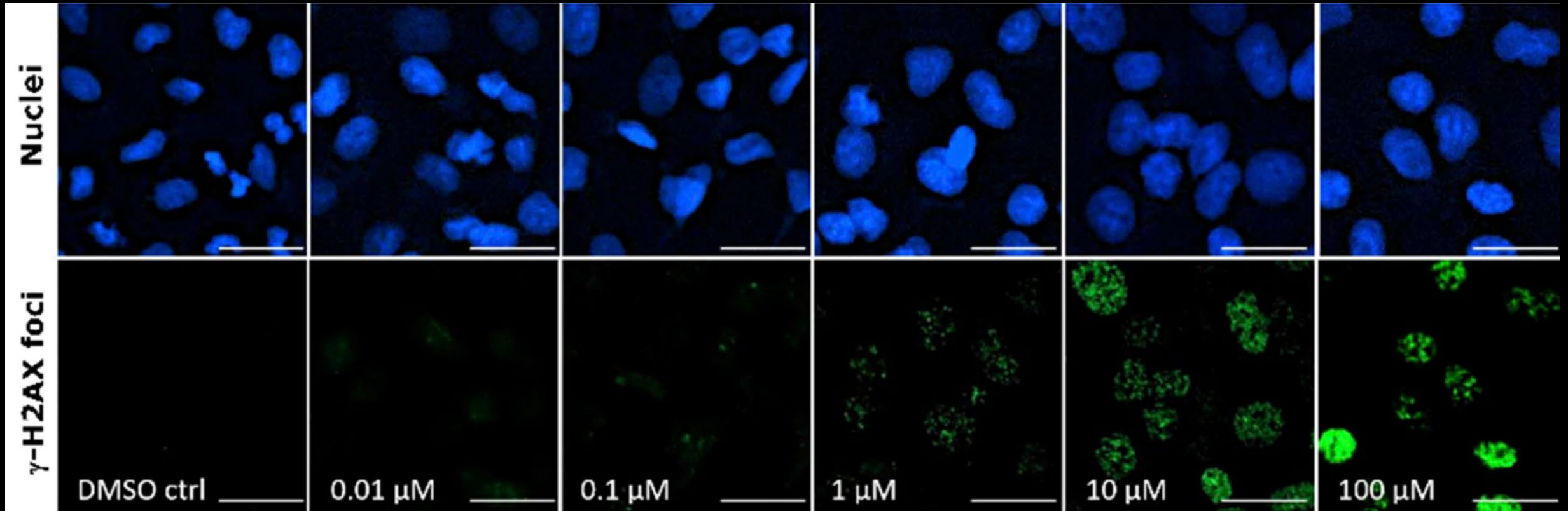
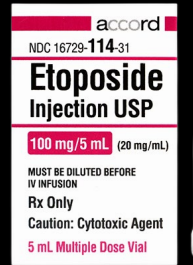
Despite extensive resuscitation efforts, the patient developed asystole and **died on day 44.**

Michelle Hermiston MD PhD

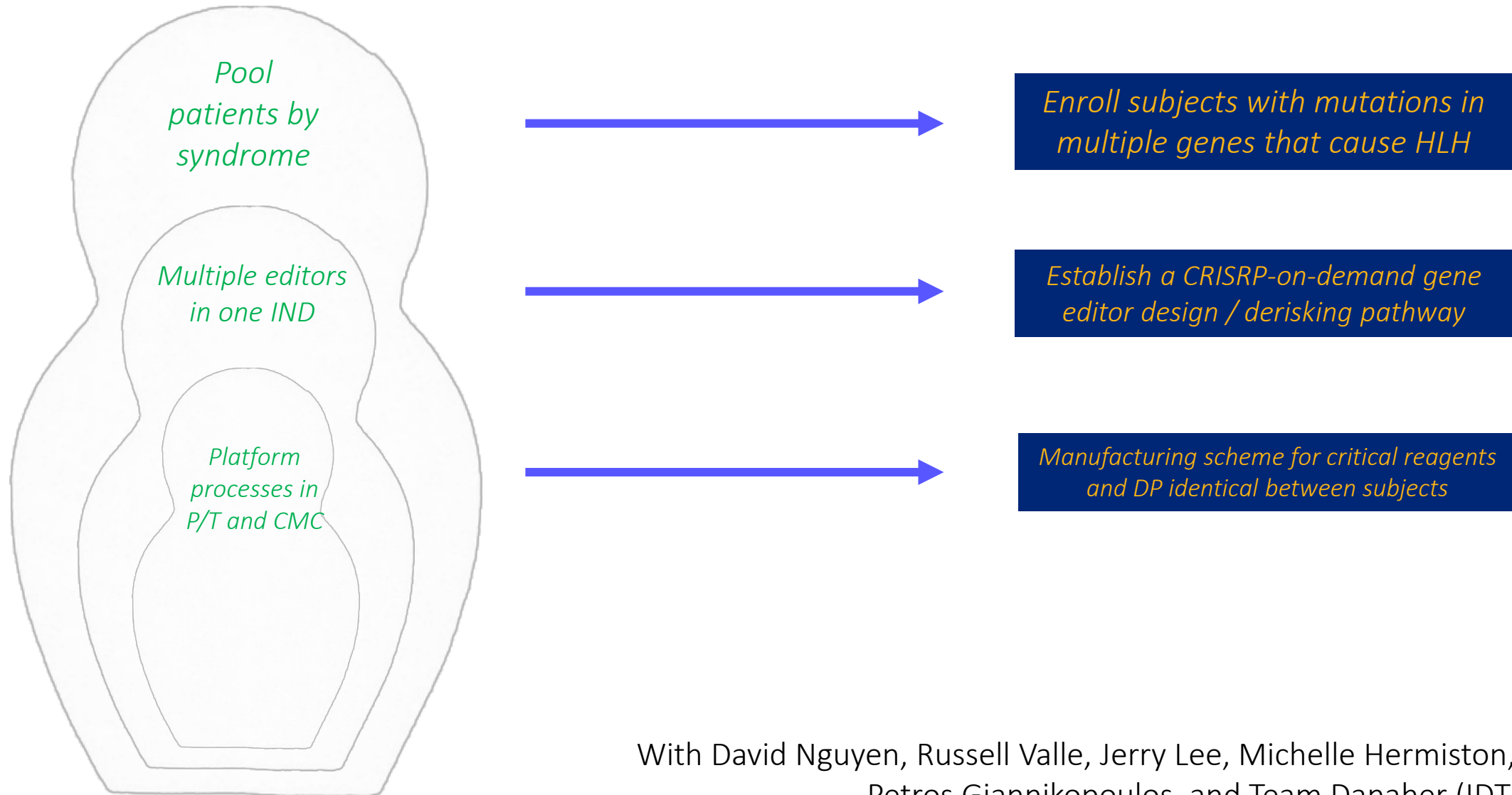
UCSF Health



Infants with fHLH are treated with etoposide as SOC



30% of newborns with fHLH have 2 months to live



With David Nguyen, Russell Valle, Jerry Lee, Michelle Hermiston, Brian Shy,
Petros Giannikopoulos, and Team Danaher (IDT, Aldevron)



Rebecca Ahrens-niklas, CHOP



Kiran Musunuru, Penn Medicine



Sadik Kassim, Danaher

The difference Baby KJ has made



June 5 2025

FORUM | VIRTUAL

Cell and Gene Therapy Roundtable

JUNE 5, 2025

On This Page

Meeting Information

Date: June 5, 2025

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. ET

FDA Roundtable on Cell and Gene Therapy

From a US regulatory authority

FDA Cell and Gene Therapy Roundtable

Hosted by the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research

Thurs, June 5, 9 a.m. - noon ET

Watch on YouTube

Copy link

FDA

Webcast Recording: FDA Roundtable on Cell and Gene Therapy

Media Inquiries: HHS Press Office



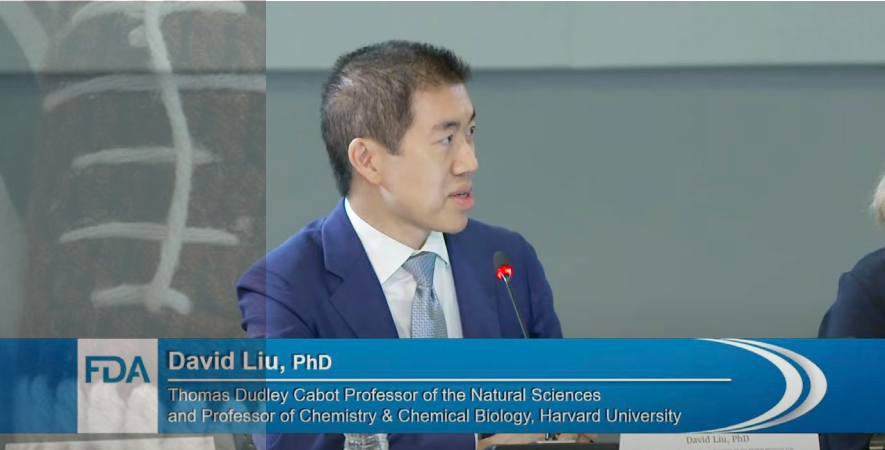
Mehmet Oz
CMS

Robert Kennedy
HHS

Marty Makary
FDA

Jay Bhachattarya
NIH

Vinay Prasad
CBER



Sec Kennedy – “CRISPR gives the gift of life.”
Classified as internal/staff & contractors by the European Medicines Agency



Secretary Kennedy  
@SecKennedy



Thursday morning, I had the privilege of speaking with the Muldoon family, whose 10-month-old son, baby KJ, was discharged Wednesday from @ChildrensPhila. Baby KJ was diagnosed with a rare urea cycle disorder and received a first-of-its-kind personalized CRISPR gene-editing therapy—customized specifically for his unique mutation.

Thanks to the extraordinary expertise and compassion of the team at CHOP and the researchers who developed this pioneering treatment, baby KJ now has a second chance at life. The Muldoon family's courage is nothing short of inspiring, and I offer my deepest gratitude to everyone at CHOP and beyond who made this medical milestone possible.

This isn't just a medical success story—it's a powerful glimpse into the future of personalized medicine.

I remain firmly committed to working with @NIHDirector_Jay, @DrMakaryFDA, @DrOzCMS, and others to ensure that:

- HHS continues to invest in cutting-edge research that drives breakthrough therapies
- Our regulatory frameworks keep pace with rapid innovation
- No family is ever denied access to life-saving treatments because of cost

Breakthroughs like this are why we do the work.



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After this week's cell and gene therapy roundtable at @US_FDA, @SecKennedy joined @DrOzCMS, @DrMakaryFDA, and @NIHDirector_Jay to deliver a message directly to the American people about investing in cutting-edge cures.

Cell and gene therapy holds promise—but it also demands caution, transparency, and rigorous oversight.

Smart innovation will help Make America Healthy Again.



1:35 PM · Jun 6, 2025 · 246.3K Views

“New FDA approval pathway for n-of-1 therapies coming soon, Prasad says”

Endpoints Sep 8 2025

The success story of baby KJ’s customized CRISPR therapy and the prospects for others like it have the FDA readying a **new approval pathway for those with extremely limited treatment options.**

The new pathway will be for novel therapies intended for just one or a few patients, the FDA’s Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research Director Vinay Prasad told a Duke-Margolis workshop last week. The agency is planning to outline it in the New England Journal of Medicine, according to Prasad, who described it as **“the plausible mechanism pathway.”**

The idea was first floated by FDA Commissioner Marty Makary in April, who described it at the time as a “conditional approval” pathway. Prasad said that **“it will be a novel pathway for drug developers who are pursuing bespoke therapy. By that, I mean completely individualized therapy that baby A gets one treatment, B gets the next treatment, baby C gets a different treatment.”**

Baby KJ, or Kyle Patrick Muldoon Jr., is a pediatric patient born with a rare metabolic disease. His ailment was successfully treated with a custom gene editing therapy by researchers in Philadelphia, accelerating discussions about how to advance similar treatments for tiny populations of patients. The effort has been helped along by the failure in recent years of many such treatments to gain traction with corporate developers, or to gain approval through existing approval pathways.

The upcoming NEJM publication will provide drugmakers with a roadmap for how they can win approval for such therapies, Prasad said, “after treating just several kids or young adults or adults with a certain condition.” Those trials could be as small as five people, he added.

The only way to find out
how to safely edit people —
is to edit more people.

In the 36 year history of cell and gene therapy practically not a single treatment related SAE was predicted from nonclinical studies



The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

BRIEF REPORT

Acute Myeloid Leukemia Case after Gene Therapy for Sickle Cell Disease

Sunita Goyal, M.D., John Tisdale, M.D., Manfred Schmidt, Ph.D., Julie Kanter, M.D., Jennifer Jaroscak, M.D., Dustin Whitney, Ph.D., Hans Bitter, Ph.D., Philip D. Gregory, Ph.D., Geoffrey Parsons, Ph.D., Marianna Foos, M.S., Ashish Yeri, Ph.D., Maple Gioia, A.L.M., Sarah B. Voytek, Ph.D., Alex Miller, B.S., Jessie Lynch, M.S., Richard A. Colvin, M.D., Ph.D., and Melissa Bonner, Ph.D.

BIOTECH

ASGCT: Neurogene details new safety measures after young patient's death in AAV gene therapy trial

By **Darren Incorvaia** · May 16, 2025 3:00pm

The New York Times

Gene Treatment for Rare Epilepsy Causes Brain Side Effect in 2 Children

The side effect, a buildup of fluid in the brain, led to the death of one of the children and presents a grave setback for a class of personalized medicine.



ABOUT INNOVATION PIPELINE PATIENTS PARTNERING NEWS CAREERS

SEPTEMBER 10, 2025

A Letter to the STXBP1 Community

To the STXBP1 Community:

It is with heavy hearts that we share that the first patient to participate in our SYNRGY trial for STXBP1-Related Disorders passed away. We wish to express our deepest condolences to the patient's family and know that the entire community is grieving this loss.



A promising genetic treatment tailor-made for a baby born with a rare disorder



TIME

The Economist

The Washington Post

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

May 15 2025

ENDPOINTS NEWS

The inside story of the six-month sprint to create the first custom CRISPR therapy for one infant's rare disease



Classified as internal/staff & contractors by the European Medicines Agency



The New York Times

Baby Is Healed With World's First Personalized Gene-Editing Treatment

The technique used on a 9½-month-old boy with a rare condition has the potential to help people with thousands of other uncommon genetic diseases.



May 15 2028?



Baby Rosalind of London



Medicines &
Healthcare products
Regulatory Agency



Baby Gregor of Brno



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE · MEDICINES · HEALTH



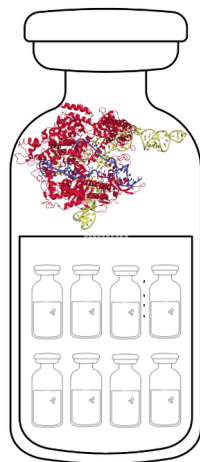
Baby Barbara of Cold Spring
Harbor, NY



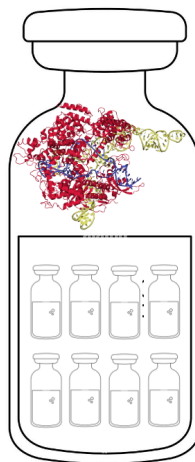
May 15 2030?



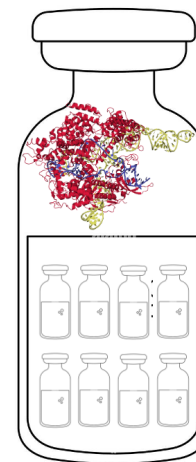
hematologic



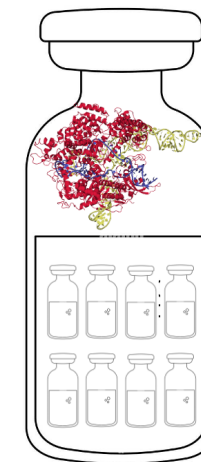
metabolic



pulmonary



dermatology



Platform approaches for CRISPR on-demand



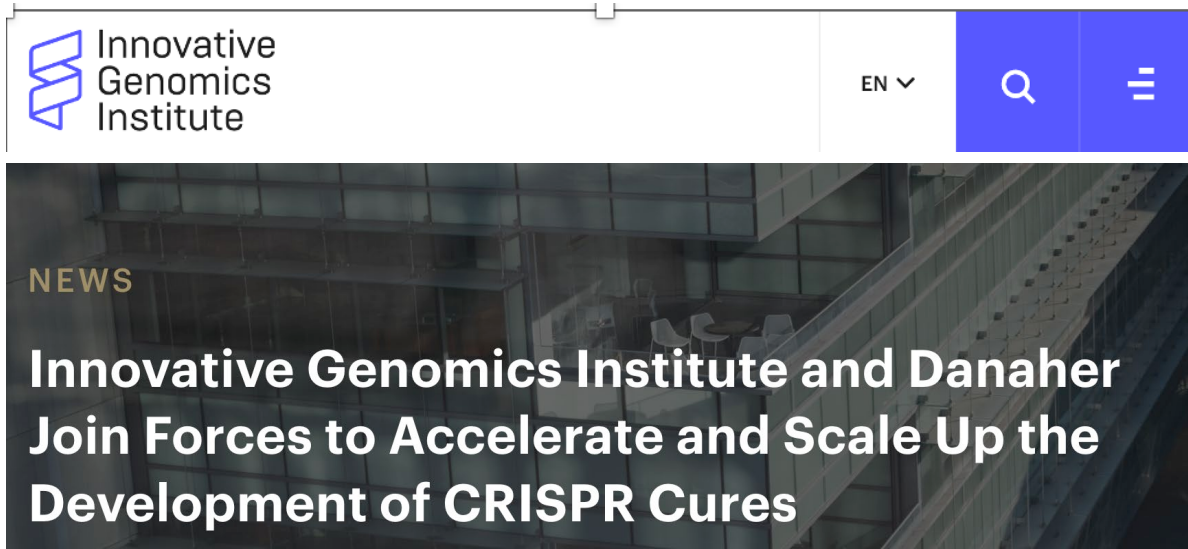
Medicines &
Healthcare products
Regulatory Agency



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH



IGI partnerships in pediatric CRISPR Cures



Develop platform approaches for rapid design and clinical deployment of CRISPR-on-demand pediatric disease.
Use them to treat children in areas of severe unmet need and no for-profit sector involvement.
Share the nonclinical and clinical data broadly.

"Courage is not being fearless,
but being scared to death
and doing the right thing anyway."

Andy Rooney (1919-2011)

