RESULTS OF PHASE 2 HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE TRIAL OF ANTI-SEMAPHORIN 4D ANTIBODY PEPINEMAB (SIGNAL) WILL GUIDE CLINICAL TRIAL IN ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

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AD/PD[™]2021 March 9-14, 2021 Virtual Conference

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Elizabeth Evans is an employee and stockholder of Vaccinex, Inc





Glial cells respond to damage in the brain



SEMA4D is upregulated on damaged neurons
Glial cells express receptors for SEMA4D
SEMA4D binding to Plexin receptors triggers collapse of cytoskeleton and transformation to inflammatory state

Pepinemab MAb binds to SEMA4D and blocks its signaling activity → preserves normal astrocyte morphology and function & averts inflammatory transformation

Smith et al. 2014 Neurobiology of Disease Southwell et al. 2015. Neurobiology of Disease



SEMA4D is upregulated in neurons during Human AD and HD disease progression



Human autopsy sections of frontal lobe



SEMA4D expression correlates with neuronal loss and astrocyte activation during HD progression

SEMA4D expression is increased

Neuronal survival is reduced

Glutamine Synthetase, an astrocytic enzyme necessary for glutamate recycling, is progressively reduced

**** p <0.0001 *** p <0.0001 SEMA4D expression in HucHu + SEM) *** p 0.002 SEMA4D in 80-**** p <0.0001 **Neurons** 60-AU/mm² 40-SEMA4D Normal HD 0 HD 1 HD 2 ** p= 0.03 # Huc/HuD+ cells (Mean #/mm2 + SEM) 000 000 000 000 HuC/HuD+ # HuC/HuD+ (Neurons) Normal HD 0 HD 1 HD 2 * p= 0.05 GS Expression (Mean AU/mm² + SEM) 800-Glutamine 600 **Synthetase** (Astrocytes)

Normal HD 0 HD 1 HD 2

Frontal Cortex Parietal Lobe







Striatum









SEMA4D expression correlates with neuronal loss and astrocyte activation in Alzheimer's Disease

SEMA4D expression is increased

Neuronal survival is reduced

Glutamine Synthetase, an astrocytic enzyme necessary for glutamate recycling, is progressively reduced





Treatment Rationale

Antibody blockade of SEMA4D

preserves normal astrocyte functions (glucose transport and glutamate recycling) and prevents glial transition to inflammatory activity

ameliorates neuroinflammatory pathology, loss of inhibitory synapses, and cognitive symptoms in preclinical models

HYPOTHESIS: treatment with anti-SEMA4D MAb pepinemab will prevent hypometabolism and inflammatory pathology and restore or delay cognitive loss

This mechanism of action is believed to be applicable to neurodegenerative diseases including HD and AD

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Pepinemab for treatment of Huntington's disease



SIGNAL (VX15-2503-N-131) Early Manifest HD







Huntington's is a Genetically Inherited Disease

HD is caused by mutation in a single gene. Every child born to parent with HD has 50% chance of inheriting the mutation and disease.

Neuronal degeneration, neuroinflammation, and severe atrophy is observed in multiple brain regionsSymptoms usually appear between the ages of 30 to 50

There are currently no approved treatments to alter the course of Huntington's Disease When I grow up, my mind and body will slowly deteriorate until I choke to death trying to swallow. Every child born to a parent with Huntington disease as a 50% chance of sharing the same fate



SIGNAL: randomized placebocontrolled Phase 2 trial in subjects with early HD





Study Objectives

- Safety and tolerability
- Clinical global impression of change (CGIC) and Cognitive Function measures
- Brain imaging measures

*Pepinemab is a humanized monoclonal antibody (IgG4) that binds and blocks SEMA4D



Abbreviated Safety and Baseline Characteristics – Cohort B1 (EM), ITT population



Pepinemab (PEPI) is well tolerated

	Cohort B1 (EM) (N=179)		
	PBO (N=88) Placebo	PEPI (N=91) Pepinemab	
Discontinued Treatment Early	10	13	
Had Any SAE (*)	8	4	
Had Any Grade 3+ AE (*)	14	17	
CAG repeat length	44.1 (3.8)	43.5 (3.1)	
CAP score (**)	470 (96)	466 (85)	
UHDRS-DCL at screening, n(%)			
DCL-4, Unequivocal HD (>99% confident)	88 (100%)	91 (100%)	

*pre-COVID era; **CAP score = age × (CAG repeat length – 33.66)



Clinical Global Impression of Change - CGIC Subgroup Analysis– Early Manifest HD



Subjects were less likely to experience decline in CGIC following treatment with pepinemab compared to placebo.

This difference was greater in subjects with more advanced disease (TFC 11).



*nominal one-sided p-value, Fisher's exact test for worsening score



Total Functional Capacity (TFC) in HD disease progression

18-month change may be difficult to detect at top of TFC range





Cognitive function assessments

One Touch Stockings is a test of executive function that assesses both spatial planning and the working memory





Cognitive Assessment Co-Primary 2a: Test of Planning and Memory



One Touch Stockings

Early Manifest HD



One- sided p- value	Favors PEPI	Success [Critical value]
0.028	Yes	No [0.025] [0.0125]

Difference (PEPI – PBO)

Change from Baseline at Month 17 (95% CI) = -1.98 (-4.00, 0.05)



Cognitive Assessment Co-Primary 2a: Test of Timing and Processing Speed



Paced Finger Tapping Task

Early Manifest HD



One- sided p- value	Favors PEPI	Success [Critical value]
0.06	Yes	No [0.025] [0.0125]

Difference (PEPI – PBO)

Change from Baseline at Month 17 (95% CI) = 1.43 (-0.37, 3.23)



Cognitive Assessment Battery (HD-CAB)



HD-CAB Composite Index of 6 Cognitive Assessments

Early manifest HD



One- sided p- value	Favors PEPI	Critical value
0.007	Yes	Yes [0.025]

FDG-PET at 18 Months – Early Manifest: Pepinemab treatment reverses loss of metabolic activity





FDG-PET Difference in % Change SUVR (PEPI-PBO) Early Manifest at Visit18



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Summary

HYPOTHESIS: treatment with anti-SEMA4D MAb pepinemab will prevent hypometabolism and inflammatory pathology and restore or delay cognitive loss

- **MOA:** SEMA4D is upregulated during disease progression. Antibody blockade of SEMA4D preserves normal astrocyte functions and prevents glial transition to inflammatory activity
- This mechanism of action is believed to be applicable to neurodegenerative diseases including HD and AD
- SIGNAL-HD, a Phase2 study in subjects with prodromal and early manifest HD
 - Pepinemab was well-tolerated and was shown to cross the BBB at the anticipated level of 0.1% or greater of circulating antibody
 - Reduced deteriorating CGIC in subjects with more advanced TFC11 (p=0.04)
 - Treatment benefit observed in the HD-CAB cognitive battery (p=0.007)
 - Reduced brain atrophy (vMRI) and slowed or reversed decline in metabolic activity (FDG-PET)
 - Treatment benefits were detected in patients with more advanced disease (EM and TFC11)
- SIGNAL-AD, a Phase 1b/2a study in AD, is planned to begin enrollment in 2021



Acknowledgements

Vaccinex Research Team: Vikas Mishra, PhD Crystal Mallow Leslie Balch Alan Howell

Vaccinex Clinical Development: Terrence Fisher, PhD Alisha Reader Metodija Andonov John Leonard, PhD

Eric Siemers, MD

- Huntington Study Group, Andrew Feigin, Elise Kayson and Jody Goldstein and their staff at the University of Rochester Clinical Trials Coordination Center for their excellent operational support
- > Dr. Janet Wittes and team at Statistics Collaborative, Inc. (SCI)
- Finally, we wish to particularly thank the clinical investigators and staff at the thirty sites that participated in the SIGNAL trial.

Vaccinex Leadership: Maurice Zauderer, CEO Ernest Smith, CSO

Funding Support for SIGNAL-AD Alzheimer's Association Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation

Patients and their families