

# Stories from the Front Lines of Advancing Therapeutic Development for Patients:

The Research Acceleration and Innovation Network Enters a New Decade

A FasterCures TRAIN Webinar March 9, 2020



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#### TRAIN: The Research Acceleration & Innovation Network



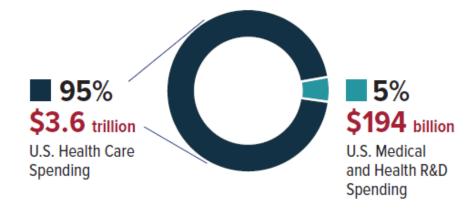
#### TRAIN's objectives are:

- To encourage more entrepreneurial philanthropy in medical research
- 2. To build more and better networks with other R&D stakeholders
- 3. To enhance the influence of the network



### U.S. Health Spending and Medical R&D Investment

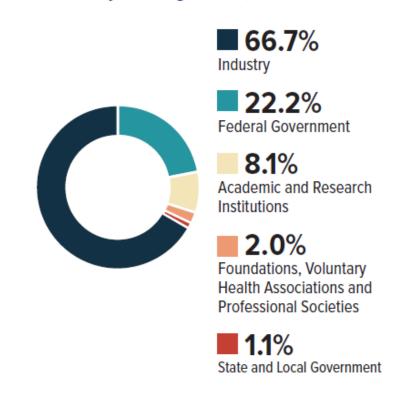
Figure 4: R&D Investment as a Percentage of Overall U.S. Health Spending, 2018



Total 2018 Health Spending:



**Figure 5:** U.S. Medical and Health R&D Expenditures by Funding Source, 2018





Source: Research!America. "U.S. Investments in Medical and Health Research and Development." 2019.



In 2018, 146 members of the Association of Medical Research Charities invested over £1.3 billion (US \$1.677 Billion) in medical research across the UK.

This was 41% of all publicly funded medical research nationally -- more than the Medical Research Council or the National Institute of Health Research!



## Biomedical R&D Landscape

Only 1 in 10,000 academic discoveries make their way into a new therapy or diagnostics that helps patients

On average, it takes 15 years and US \$1 billion to bring a new product to the market

773 FDA-approved orphan drugs as of 2019

<3% all of US funding for R&D from philanthropic sources





# Positive Trends

- In 2017, the life science venture capital industry saw record financings, and funding is up over 250% since 2013
- 2018 saw approximately 700 deals in pharma and biotech in R&D investment (US \$17 B)

# Continuing Problems

- NIH funding is higher than ever, but it is still operating at a loss after inflation and its purchasing power has decreased by 22%
- This threatens the pipeline of scientific talent, delays scientific independence and stunts research
- "Valley of death"- the gap between discovery and the point at which a company is willing to step in still exists, and more funding is needed to support preclinical and clinical work to determine scientific proof of concept



## Impatient Patients Drive Progress



The New Power Players in Drug R&D Are Wearing Bright T-Shirts

Luke Timmerman | 10/29/12 | Stollow @ldtimmerman

See all those people signing up for the 10K charity run/walk in your hometown this weekend? Those folks in your Facebook photo album, decked out with colorful T-shirts and uplifting messages about fighting some disease?

You could easily have written off many of these nonprofit fundraisers a few years ago as well-intended, but ultimately ineffective, efforts for coming up with cures. The real action, you could have argued, was only happening in the investor-

SHARE AND COMMENT

Leave a Comment

#### Bloomberg Markets

...Frustrated with the sluggishness, or nonexistence, of medical research...a small band of wealthy parents whose children have serious illnesses are spending millions of dollars to fund drug development...The principles they apply in their jobs -- managing complicated tasks, making investments and expecting positive results -- translate to their new endeavors.



## What is Venture Philanthropy?

Takes concepts and techniques from venture capital finance and high technology business management and applies them to achieving philanthropic goals."

"Treats funding as an investment rather than as the traditional concept of a charitable grant, with corresponding expectations of return on investment, operating efficiencies, and management oversight."

"Philanthropy with an opinion."



## Characteristics of Venture Philanthropies

Fund novel, high-risk research

Have strong scientific expertise

Bridge disciplines, institutions & ideas

Trusted by and have access to patients



# Jill Jarecki Chief Scientific Officer Cure SMA



# Faster Cures Webinar March 9, 2020

Jill Jarecki, PhD CSO



#### **Cure SMA**

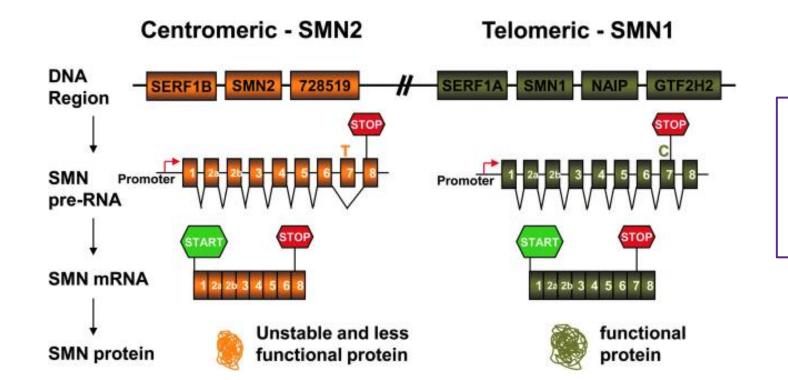
We fund groundbreaking research and provide families the support they need for today.

- Annual budget of \$15M
- •\$80 Million in research funding
- •36 Chapters in the US
- •8,000 affected individuals in membership database
- 500 newly diagnosed contacts annually
  - —Newly diagnosed care and info packets
  - —Info on clinical trial recruitment
- 4,000 families obtain services annually



# **SMA Background**

- Autosomal recessive disease of motor neurons
- Most common form genetic infant mortality, with 1 in 11,000 live births
- 95% of cases caused by SMN1 gene homozygous deletion
- SMN2 disease modifier but cannot compensate for loss of SMN1



### FDA approved drugs:

- -Spinraza Approved December 2016
- -Zolgensma Approved May 2019
- -Risdiplam PDUFA data May 2020



# Important Research Investments to De-Risk Clinical Development and Attract Investment

#### Basic and Drug Research

- Disease pathophysiology (when, where, what, how)
- Creating research tools (screens, animal and cellular models)
- Discovering / validating therapeutic targets (seed ideas for drugs)
- Directed IND enabling studies with best therapeutic avenues

#### Enabling Clinical Development

- Collecting natural history (understanding your patient population)
- Developing outcome measures and understanding sub-group sensitivity
- Discovering biomarkers for POC for early clinical trials
- Defining clinical meaningfulness for your patients
- Organizing and educating your patient population for trials
- Developing a relationship with FDA



# **Cure SMA Research Funding Strategy**

#### Discovering therapeutic approaches with basic research

- 127 PI-driven basic research grants for \$15M since 2004
- Ensuring funded science is well controlled and reproducible
- Establishing fair and transparent funding process with SAB
- Greater emphasis early on: 100% before 2000 but 30% of budget today

#### De-risking early stage drug programs to leverage investment

- \$21M for 14 programs by TAC (screeners, chemists, toxicologists, pharmacologists)
- IND enabling studies (med chem, GLP tox, pharmacology)
  - Well-defined, goal-oriented projects with good prospects for IND
  - Joint steering committee develops and decides on milestones
  - Cure SMA secures return on investment
- Provide subject matter expertise for companies new to SMA
- Provide practical drug discovery advice for academics
- Principle: investment until IND; transition to industry / government



# Shifting Research Goals with Success: Combination Therapies and Multiple Drug Options

- Novel target ID and combinations for maximally effective treatments for all SMA types and stages
  - Identify non-SMN drug targets
  - Test combinations with SMN up-regulating drugs
  - Optimized SMN enhancing therapies: next in class drugs
- RFPs in basic & drug research geared to these goals since 2016



# **Encouraging Collaboration**

- Annual SMA Conference
  - Family Meeting 2000 patients and families
  - Researcher and Clinical Care Meeting 700 attendees
  - Many industry advisory boards and focus groups
  - Clinical trial trainings
- Working groups from Academia & Medicine
  - RUSP Submission Working Group
  - Treatment Algorithm Working Group
- Aligning Industry Partners for Community Benefit
  - NBS Coalition
  - SMA Industry Collaboration





# Industry Collaboration: 7 companies co-funding and shaping projects with \$2.1M budget

#### **Regulatory Interactions**

- Patient Focused Drug Development Meeting with FDA in April 2017
- Risk / Benefit Survey for SMA published 2019
- Economic Burden of Disease Study manuscript in preparation

#### Increasing clinical trial site capacity

- Identifying and training up to 20 new trial sites
- PT and CC toolkits and in person workshops (<a href="https://www.curesma.org/clinical-trial-readiness-toolkits/">https://www.curesma.org/clinical-trial-readiness-toolkits/</a>)

#### Education of HCPs & patients to reduce diagnosis time

- Educational campaign with professional societies (AAP, AAN, CNS, NORD, CNF)
- Concerned Parent and HCP website called SMArt MOVES
- Physician Surveys

#### **Patient Reported Data Project**

Annual community survey and new contacts reports

#### **Registry Group**

GUID development



EARLY ACTION, EARLY TREATMENT, SAVES LIVES

# Organizing, Tracking, & Educating Patient Community

- 8,300 affected individuals in database
- 4,089 contacts: July 2009 January 2020
  - Over 500 newly diagnosed annually
  - Type, incidence/prevalence, disease burden, geography, diagnostic journey, survival
- Supports Community
  - Education, Care packages, informational packets, and scholarships for conference
- Research recruitment efforts
  - 15 requests per year
- Clinical trial recruitment efforts
  - 1100 patients into 15 clinical trials
- Real time changes: annual survey
  - Shared with industry, payers, & regulators

Journal of Neuromuscular Diseases 5 (2018) 167–176
DOI 10.3237JND-170292
IOS Press

Research Report

An overview of the Cure SMA

membership database: Highlights of key demographic and clinical characteristics of SMA members

Lisa Belter $^{a,*}$ , Suzanne F. Cook $^b$ , Thomas O. Crawford $^c$ , Jill Jarecki $^a$ , Cynthia C. Jones $^d$ , John T. Kissel $^c$ , Mary Schroth $^{a,f}$  and Kenneth Hobby $^a$ 

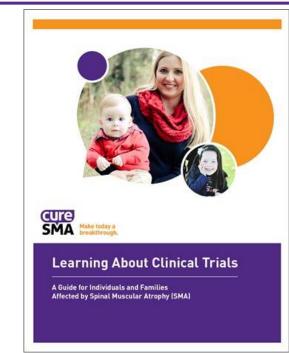
aCure SMA, Elk Grove Village, IL, USA

<sup>b</sup>Epidemiology Associates LLC, Chapel Hill, NC, USA

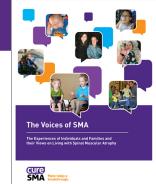
<sup>c</sup>Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD, USA <sup>d</sup>Biogen, Cambridge, MA, USA

<sup>c</sup>The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, USA

f University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, USA







2020	Critical Path Innovation Meeting, May 2020
2017/	Patient Focused Drug Development Meeting (Drs. Dunn & Marks attended), April 2017  VoP report on FDA website; Benefit / Risk survey (published Clinical Therapeutics, 2019).
2016	Listening session with FDA Commissioner, Dr. Califf, December 2016
2015	Voices of SMA Booklet, September 2015 Shared with FDA leadership, including Dr. Woodcock.
2015	In person patient meeting and calls with FDA on White Oak Campus
2013/14	Patient focus groups on meaningful benefit and impact on daily living  Two papers published in BMC and sent to FDA staff.
2011/	Scientific Meetings: NINDS -So SMART Outcomes Meeting, June 2014  Biomarker Meeting, 2011
Ongoing	FDA Attendance at SMA Annual Conference, i.e., Dr. Moscicki of CDER in 2014.
Ongoing	Providing formal commentary on FDA guidance on multiple occasions

# **Current Projects and Next Steps**

- Newborn screening in all 50 states 70% of births end of 2020
  - 19 states fully implemented, 14 adopted not implemented, and 5 pilots
- Approved drugs with maximal efficacy for all SMA stages & types
  - SMN up-regulating drugs with different routes of administration
  - Combination therapies with novel targets
- Clinical Center Network (CCN)
  - Develop and disseminate evidence based SMA standard of care
  - More sites to deliver specialized SMA therapies & care
  - 50/50 adult and pediatric prevalence disease
- Data Collection through Clinical Data Registry (CDR)
  - 18 current sites with 50 by 2022
  - Improve care and document efficacy post market
- Direct local services in addition to national delivery



# **Summary**

- Develop strategic research plan to de-risk disease drug development to enable pharma investment
- Shift plan / research strategy at different stages
- Collaborations and resources in addition to \$ are critical to success drug development
- Organize and educate patient community to enable clinical trials, data collection, & positive community environment
- Give patient community a voice by educating FDA, insurers, and drug developments with both data and stories
- Plan for future success: think early for NBS, drug access, & post-marketing data collection

# Annette Bakker President Children's Tumor Foundation





# Children's Tumor Foundation ENDING NF (Neurofibromatosis)

Annette Bakker abakker@ctf.org

# What is neurofibromatosis (NF)?



NF IS A GENETIC DISORDER that causes tumors to grow on the nerves

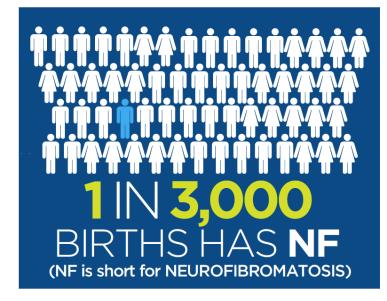
1 2 3
There are 3 types of NF:
NF1, NF2, AND SCHWANNOMATOSIS

NF affects all populations, genders & ethnicities equally



# NF AFFECTS EVERYONE DIFFERENTLY

It causes tumors to grow on nerves throughout the body and may lead to blindness, deafness, bone abnormalities, disfigurement, learning disabilities, disabling pain, and cancer.







# Living with NF





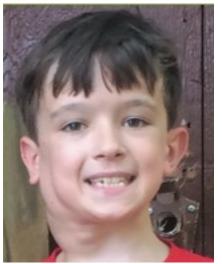














# Top 5 wins / Last 5 years





Created diversified R&D portfolio – first ever in NF (drugs, biologics, gene therapy)



Built vibrant patient, research, funder, and data community



Attracted pharma/biotech into NF



Tripled the number of clinical trials for NF



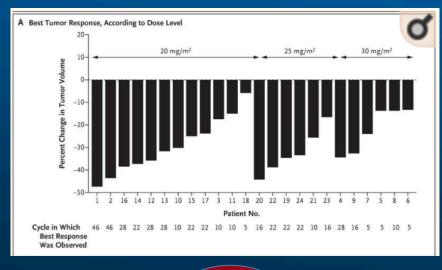
And...

# CTF helped bring Selumetinib to FDA

CHILDREN'S TUMOR TUMOR FOUNDATION

ENDING NF

THROUGH RESEARCH





NEJM 2016, 375 :2550 At FDA Now!







#### CHILDREN'S TUMOR CL FOUNDATION ENDING NE

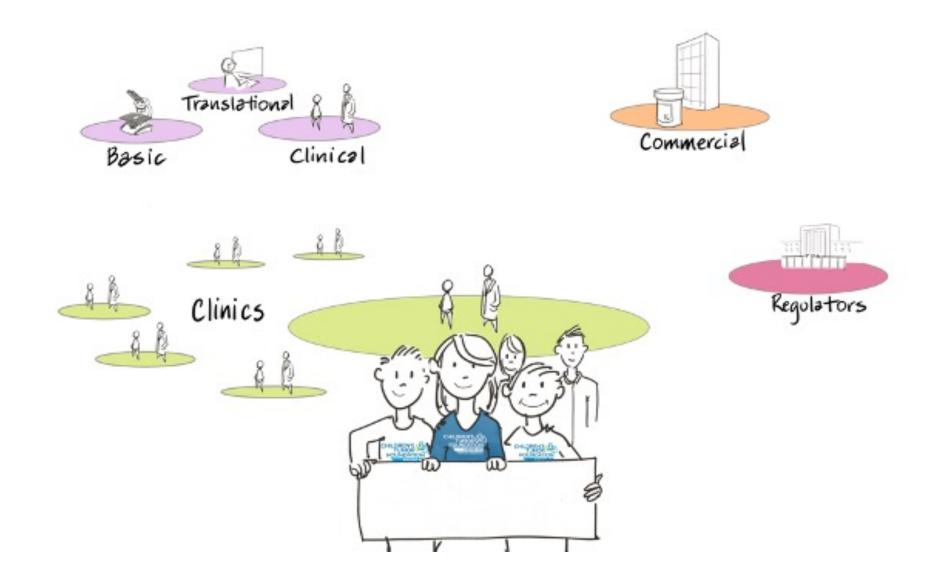
#### Children's Tumor Foundation is:

- The global **connector**
- The research disruptor
- The pharma attractor



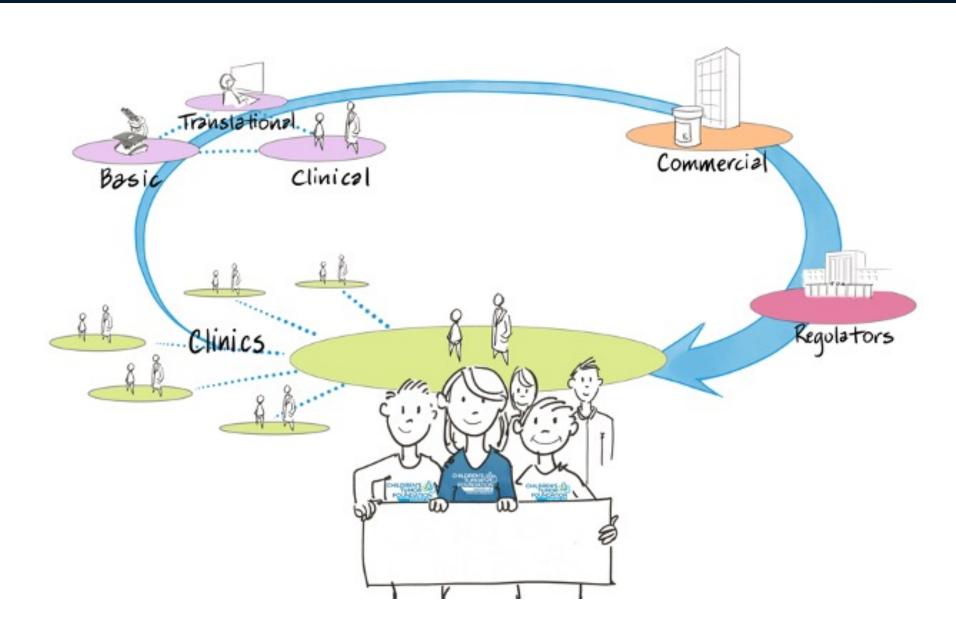
# Traditional siloed R&D ecosystem





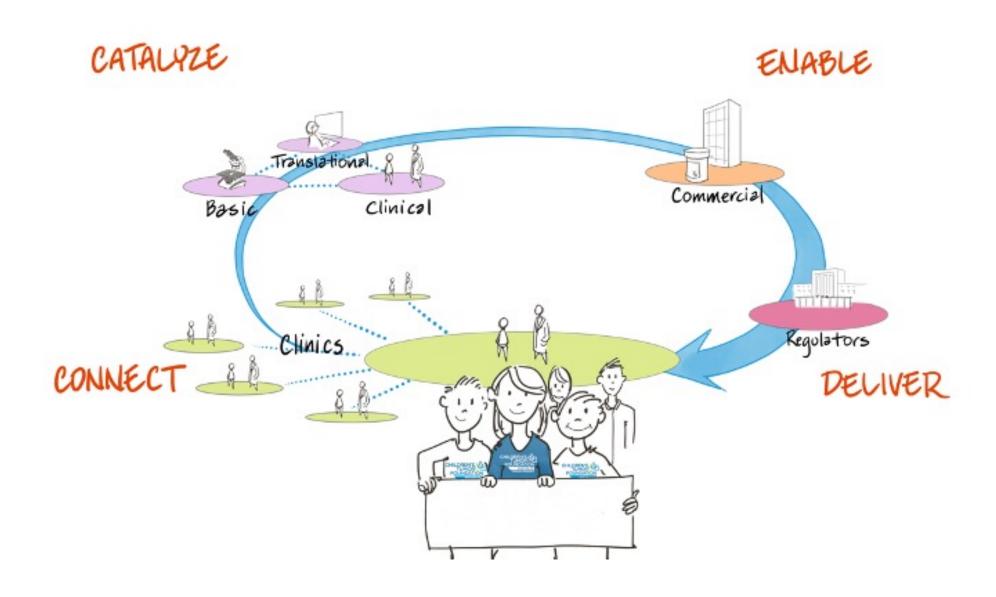
# CTF ambition: unite to End NF





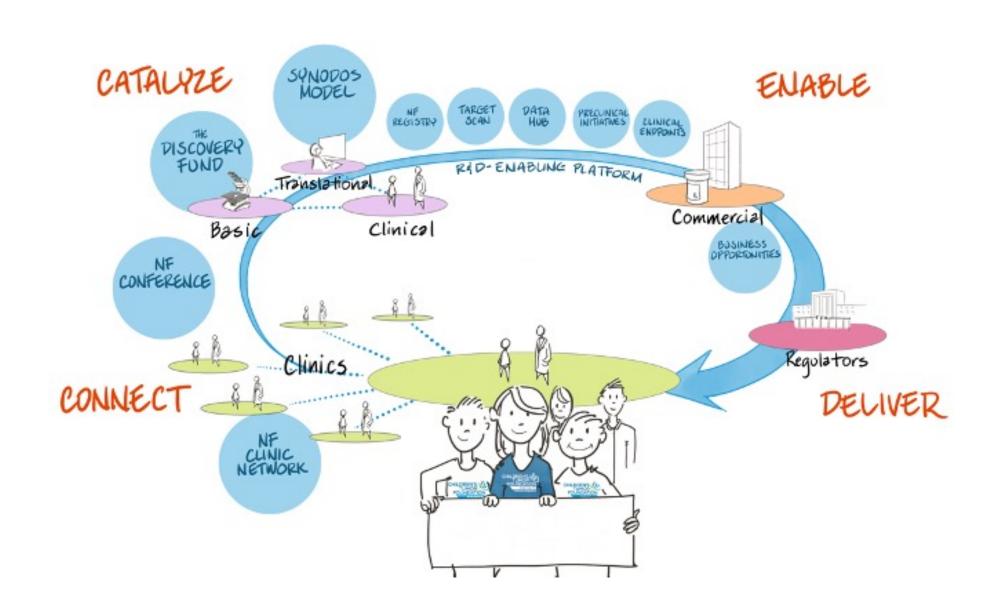
# Connect · Catalyze · Enable · Deliver





### Children's Tumor Foundation Initiatives





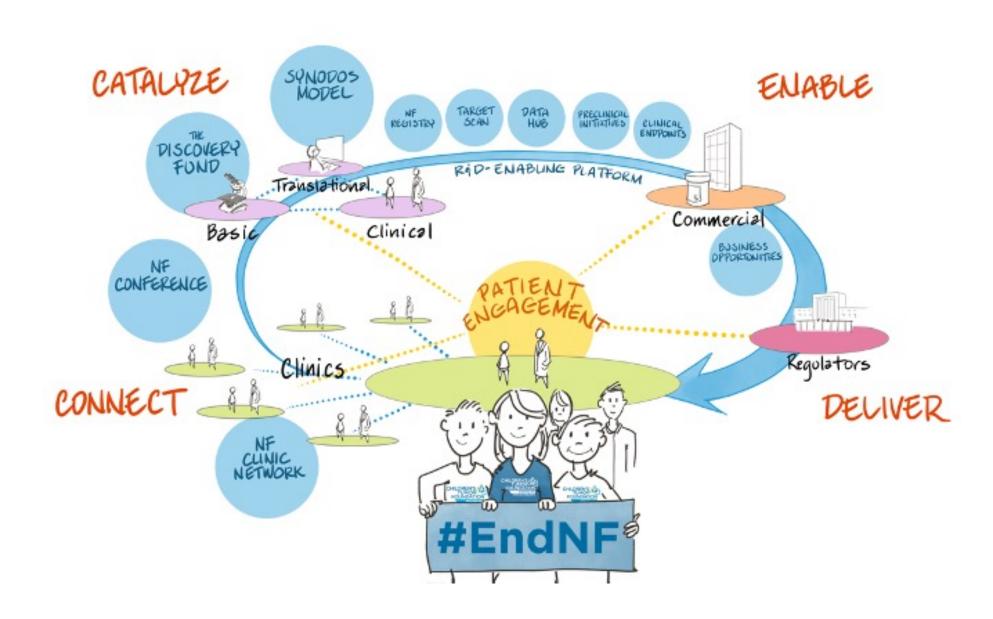
# R&D Enabling Platform – by the numbers



CTF - NF Platform			
NF Clinic Network	15,000 patients/ 56 clinics		
NF Patient Registry	Almost 10,000 patients, 98 countries		
Open Biobank – in partnership with Indiana University	Hundreds of tissues for all forms of NF		
NF Data Portal www.nfdataportal.org	Thousands of data sets Co-funded with other NF funders		
Key Opinion Leader networks	Access to key researchers/clinicians		
Preclinical Models	Cell lines at ATCC NF Preclinical initiative (under reconstruction)		
Path to Approval	Consensus criteria developed and published		
		35	

## Patients as partners – united to End NF





## Thank You





Join us in the fight to End NF ctf.org

# Albert Roy Executive Director Lupus Therapeutics, LLC



# FasterCures: Stories From the Front Lines of Advancing Therapeutic Development for Patients

Albert T. Roy
Executive Director
Lupus Therapeutics, LLC
March 9, 2020



## **Lupus Therapeutics Company Profile**

**Formation** 

- Affiliate of Lupus Research Alliance
  - Formed in January 2018
  - 501(c)3 status

Governance

- Lupus Therapeutics (LT) Board of Directors
  - Legal/Fiduciary responsibility
  - Board Composition: LRA Board & External members (VC, industry, academic)

**Function** 

- Coordinate Lupus Clinical Investigators Network (LuCIN) activities
  - Lupus focused clinical trial network
  - >50 Academic research centers in US & Canada
- Financially incentive LuCIN sites to become and remain enrollment ready for LuCIN-sanctioned trials
- Provide study start-up and consultative service offerings to Industry



## **Lupus...The Unfortunate Truths**

Lupus is a chronic, potentially fatal, autoimmune disease

 Rather than protect against infection, the immune system of lupus patients attacks their own tissues and organs — kidneys, brain, heart, lungs, blood, skin and joints

Lupus has no known cause



#### The Need For Better Treatments

- Only one new drug (Benlysta) has been approved for <u>treatment</u> in the last 65 years
- Today's treatments offer lupus patients only temporary relief and cause significant, dangerous or debilitating side effects
- LRA initiated a new research program to address the slow pace of development of new therapies for lupus
- Originally focused on re-positioning FDA-approved drugs for lupus
  - Secondary goal: Redirect drugs in development toward lupus



## Challenges in Conducting Lupus Clinical Trials

- Heterogeneous patient population
- Lupus studies carried out globally often do not follow best practices in lupus diagnosis and study recruitment
- Difficult to recruit African American patients lack patient trust
- Patient uneasiness related to modifying treatment fear of "rocking the boat"
- Lupus clinical investigator community culture of research, not prevalent



### **Our Vision**

 Overarching Goal – <u>Identify</u>, <u>de-risk</u>, and <u>accelerate</u> the conduct of novel lupus clinical trials through a research consortium model, <u>LuCIN</u>

#### Core Constituents:

- Pharma/Industry Drug developers/trial sponsors/source of revenue
- KoLs/Investigators point of care/trial conduct
- Patients who we serve

#### Points of Differentiation:

- Broad Lupus footprint/research reputation
- Exclusively Academic-led Trials Network



## **Achieving Goal**

- Identify
  - LuCIN/KoL referrals
  - Pharma interactions (reactive/proactive approaches)
  - Data/Literature Mining
- De-risk
  - Clinical trial infrastructure LuCIN
  - Proper drug candidate vetting/prioritization (SABs)
  - Novel study design review/approaches (LuCIN PRC)
  - Active patient engagement (Ad boards)
- Accelerate Site Management Organization Services
  - Site identification/investigator recruitment
  - Study Start-up services







#### **Establish LuCIN**

Academic sites

- >50 sites in US and Canada
- >150 investigators
- >23,000 patients in clinic population
- Incentivized (funded) to support enrollment



#### **Physician Leadership**

 Governance Structure, Working Committees



Industry-led & Investigator-led Clinical Research



**Suite of Service Offerings** 



## Lupus Therapeutics Suite of Services



#### **Advisory Board**

 Review drug candidate(s) and clinical development programs of industry

## Protocol Design & Development

 Review protocol design, endpoint development, PRO development and selection

#### n t

 Conduct feasibility, contract, budget negotiation

**Study Start-up** 

- Facilitate PI/site engagement
- Assess site operational and logistical challenges
- Identify unique site or patient specific burdens



Patient Engagement

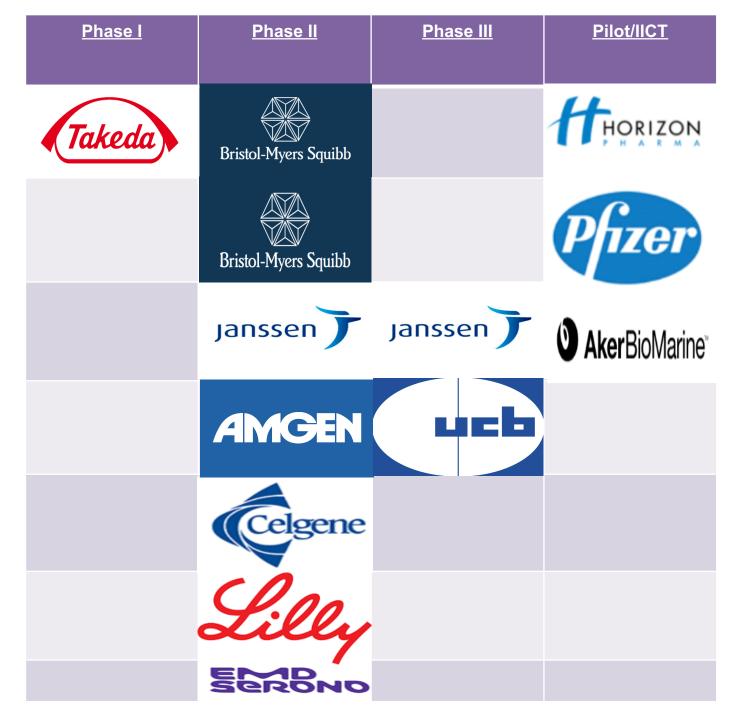
- Advisory Panels
- Obtain feedback on
  - protocol, consent,
  - · risk/benefit,
  - trial burden
  - packaging
  - trial recruitment materials
- PALS Program



## Our Approach...In Action

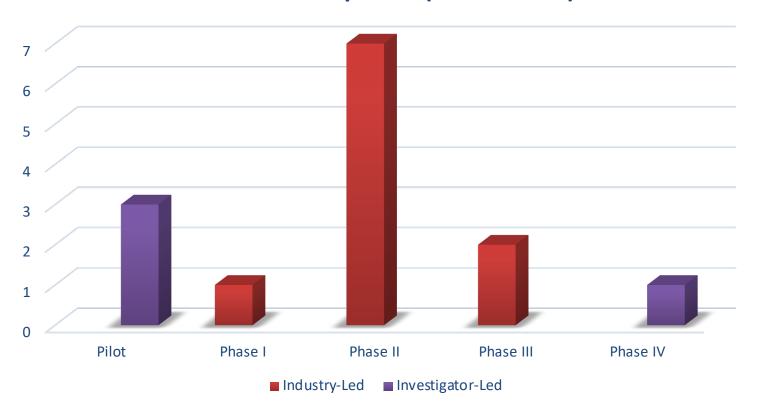
- Provided scientific rationale to Janssen to repurpose Ustekinumab (Stelara) in SLE
- Positive Phase II study in SLE 2018
- Phase III SLE study recently closed to accrual (January 2020)
  - Top-line results January 2021
- March 2021 forged additional partnership with Janssen to repurpose second second(confidential) in Lupus Nephritis
  - Planned Phase II study 2Q2020
- Ongoing discussion w/ Lilly for TBN asset





## **Achievements**

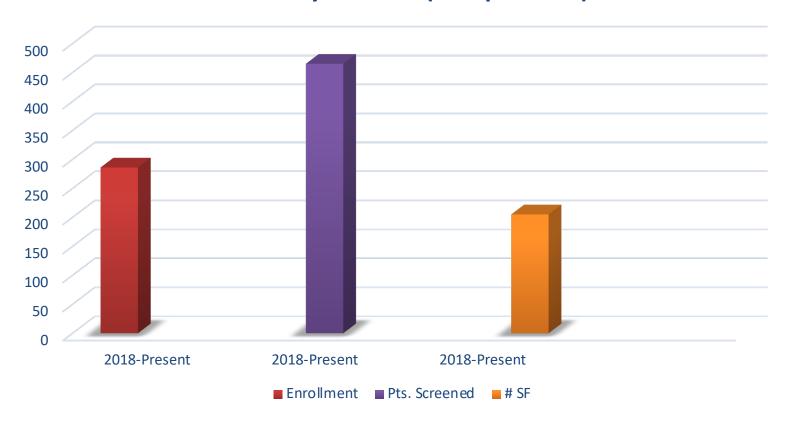
#### **LuCIN Trial Pipeline (# of studies)**





## Achievements (cont.)

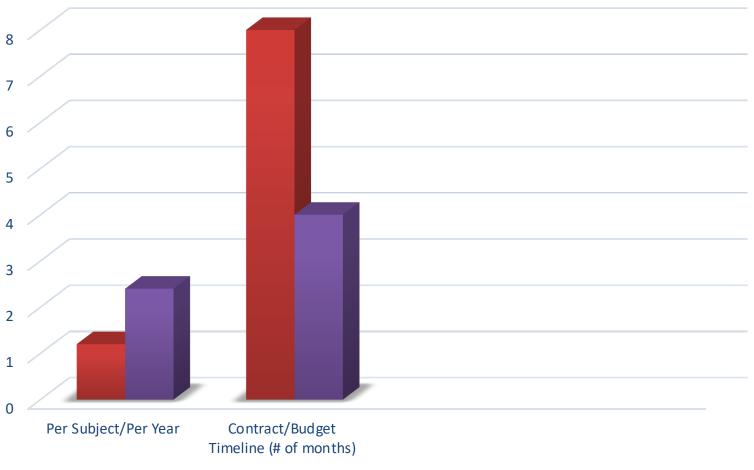
#### **LuCIN Study Metrics (# of patients)**





## Achievements (cont.)

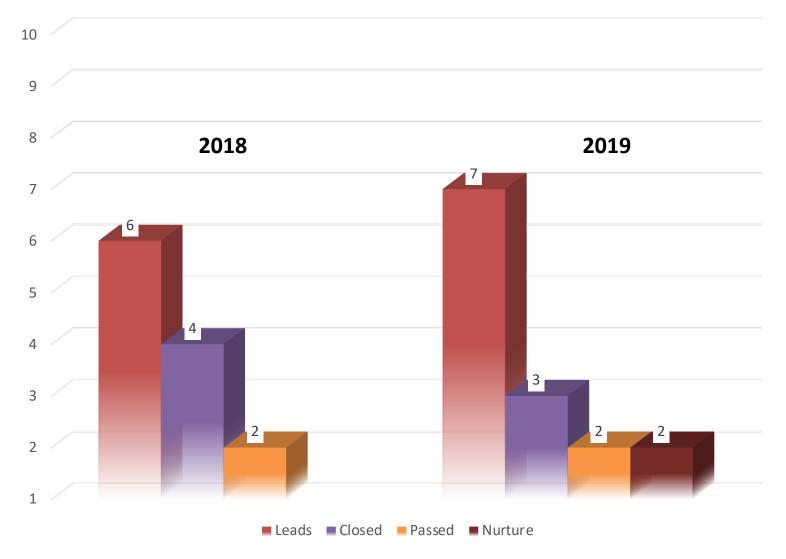
#### **Other Metrics**



■ Historical ■ LT/LuCIN



#### **PIPELINE CONVERSION**





## **Challenges**

- Overcoming industry perception that Lupus is a "graveyard" for Drug Development
- Establishing brand equity within the drug development community
- Services compete w/ CROs fully integrated with industry
- Paradigm shift slow with academic investigators creating a "culture of research"
- Overcoming patient reluctance to participate in lupus clinical trials





an affiliate of

**LUPUS** RESEARCH ALLIANCE



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