APOL1 Diagnostics and Therapeutics

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DISCLOSURES

- Consultant: AstraZeneca, Maze, Travere, Sanofi
Case 1

- 35 yo woman of recent African ancestry with a history of hypothyroidism, uterine fibroids, gastroesophageal reflux is regularly followed by her primary care physician. She no history of hypertension or CKD (eGFR >90).
- The patient performs a 23andMe DNA test and uploads the findings.

You have both of the genetic variants we tested.

The APOL1 gene contains instructions for making a protein that is found in the blood and in multiple organs, including the kidneys. The APOL1 protein plays a role in the immune system, helping the body fight certain parasites called trypanosomes. Although the mechanism is still unknown, certain variants in the APOL1 gene increase the risk for chronic kidney disease, perhaps by causing injury to kidney cells called podocytes.

You have both of the genetic variants we tested.
Case 1 – Summer of 2021

• 35 yo woman of recent African ancestry with a history of hypothyroidism, uterine fibroids, gastroesophageal reflux is regularly followed by her primary care physician. She has no history of hypertension or CKD.

• The patient performs a 23andMe DNA test and uploads the findings

• The Primary Care Doctor refers the patient to a nephrologist

• The nephrologist reaches out with the following questions before seeing the patient:
  • Do these findings confirm a G1/G2 genotype?
  • Is this patient at higher risk for CKD
  • How should this patient be managed
Case 1

• 35 yo woman of recent African ancestry with a history of hypothyroidism, uterine fibroids, gastroesophageal reflux is regularly followed by her primary care physician. She has no history of hypertension or CKD.

• The patient had been getting annual eGFR tests (consistently > 90 ml/min) with most recent Cr 0.72 mg/dl

• She never had urine protein or albumin quantification, though a urinalysis 3 years prior had 1+ protein

• Nephrology visit:
  • Family history: no known kidney disease, but information not complete
  • BP: 101/55
  • Urine protein/creatinine ratio: 99 mg/g; wnl
  • CT Abd/pelvis: Normal size/structure of kidneys

• The patient was reassured and encouraged to follow up for annual kidney testing
Case 2 – GUARDD Study and KPMP

• 65 yo African American Woman with a history of Hypertension and hyperlipidemia

• Participant in the GUARDD Study
Design and rationale of GUARDD-US: A pragmatic, randomized trial of genetic testing for APOL1 and pharmacogenomic predictors of antihypertensive efficacy in patients with hypertension

Michael T. Eadon a,1, Kerri L. Cavanaugh b,1, Lori A. Orlando c,1, David Christian d,1, Hrishikesh Chakraborty c,e, Kady-Ann Steen-Burrell e, Peter Merrill e, Janet Seo d, Diane Hauser d,f, Rajbir Singh g, Cherry Maynor Beasley h, Jyotsna Fuloria i, Heather Kitzman j, Alexander S. Parker k, Michelle Ramos d, Henry H. Ong b, Erica N. Elwood l, Sheryl E. Lynch a, Sabrina Clermont d, Emily J. Cicali 1, Petr Starostik m, Victoria M. Pratt a, Khoa A. Nguyen l, Marc B. Rosenman n, Neil S. Calman d,f, Mimsie Robinson o, Girish N. Nadkarni p, Ebony B. Madden q, Natalie Kucher q, Simona Volpi q, Paul R. Dexter a, Todd C. Skaar a, Julie A. Johnson l, Rhonda M. Cooper-DeHoff l,aa, Carol R. Horowitz d,p,aa, For the GUARDD-US Investigators
The pharmacogenomic sub-study will evaluate the relationship of pharmacogenomic genotype and change in systolic BP between baseline and 3 months.
Case 2 – GUARDD Study and KPMP

• 65 yo African American Woman with a history of Hypertension and hyperlipidemia
• Participant in the GUARDD Study
• BP 117/76 on Losartan 100 mg daily and Amlodipine 10 mg daily
• CKD stage 3 (eGFR 56-59 ml/min). UPCR 60 mg/g, UACR 18 mg/g
• APOL1 G1/G1
• Kidney Precision Medicine Project Research Biopsy
What is KPMP?

- A multi-year collaboration of leading research institutions to study patients with kidney disease
- Better understand the mechanisms of acute kidney injury (AKI) and chronic kidney disease (CKD)
Goals of the KPMP

1. Identify new treatments for kidney disease
2. Ethically collect kidney biopsies from participants with acute kidney injury or chronic kidney disease
3. Create a Kidney Tissue Atlas
4. Define disease subgroups

Patient Engagement is at the core of KPMP. Patients sit on all KPMP committees and working groups.
Case 2 – GUARDD Study and KPMP

- Focal Global Glomerulosclerosis (5% of Glomeruli; N = 22)
  - Mild Tubular Atrophy and Interstitial Fibrosis
  - Mild Arteriolar Sclerosis
- Representative glomeruli normal appearing

• Recommended continuing current antihypertensive regimen
Case 3 – Spring of 2020

- A 53 year-old African-American female with a past medical history of hypertension, hypothyroidism, depression, obstructive sleep apnea, and obesity (BMI 31) was hospitalized with AKI and nephrotic-range proteinuria in the setting of confirmed COVID-19. Admission laboratory tests revealed elevated inflammatory markers including IL-6, IL-8, TNF-alpha, C-reactive protein, and Ferritin. Serologic work-up for alternate etiologies of glomerulonephritis was negative.

- The patient required hemodialysis

- APOL1 genotyping performed using an in-house assay: G1/G1
Analytical Validation of a Personalized Medicine APOL1 Genotyping Assay for Nondiabetic Chronic Kidney Disease Risk Assessment

Jinglan Zhang,* Anastasia Fedick,* Stephanie Wasserman,* Geping Zhao,* Lisa Edelmann,* Erwin P. Bottinger,† Ruth Kornreich,* and Stuart A. Scott*

From the Department of Genetics and Genomic Sciences* and the Institute for Personalized Medicine,† Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, New York

- PCR/allele specific primer extension
- Validated with 48 positive and 10 negative controls
- Concordant with Sanger sequencing
Analytical Validation of a Personalized Medicine
APOL1 Genotyping Assay for Nondiabetic Chronic Kidney Disease Risk Assessment

Jinglan Zhang,* Anastasia Fedick,* Stephanie Wasserman,* Geping Zhao,* Lisa Edelmann,* Erwin P. Bottinger,† Ruth Kornreich,* and Stuart A. Scott*†

From the Department of Genetics and Genomic Sciences* and the Institute for Personalized Medicine,† Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, New York

Table 5  Multiethnic APOL1 G1 and G2 Dihapotype Frequencies by Renal Disease Risk

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APOL1 diplotpe*</th>
<th>African American, % (N = 5453)</th>
<th>Hispanic, % (N = 1146)</th>
<th>Asian, % (N = 460)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Normal risk</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WT/WT</td>
<td>44.6 (n = 2430)</td>
<td>87.8 (n = 1006)</td>
<td>97.0 (n = 446)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G1/WT</td>
<td>25.6 (n = 1398)</td>
<td>7.1 (n = 81)</td>
<td>2.2 (n = 10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G2/WT</td>
<td>16.0 (n = 874)</td>
<td>4.9 (n = 56)</td>
<td>0.4 (n = 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>86.2 (n = 4702)</td>
<td>99.8 (n = 1143)</td>
<td>99.6 (n = 458)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased risk</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G1/G1</td>
<td>5.7 (n = 310)</td>
<td>0.1 (n = 1)</td>
<td>0.0 (n = 0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G1/G2</td>
<td>8.1 (n = 334)</td>
<td>0.1 (n = 1)</td>
<td>0.4 (n = 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G2/G2</td>
<td>2.0 (n = 107)</td>
<td>0.1 (n = 1)</td>
<td>0.0 (n = 0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>13.8 (n = 751)</td>
<td>0.3 (n = 3)</td>
<td>0.4 (n = 2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The G1 risk haplotype includes both the G1⁰ and G1⁰ allele configurations.

7059 DNA samples were used for the multiethnic APOL1 allele and genotype frequency screen.

High risk alleles present in 14% of African American individuals.
• Representative light microscopy demonstrates collapse of the glomerular tufts with hyperplasia of epithelial cells (hematoxylin-eosin; original magnification x400).

• Another glomerulus shows collapse of capillary loops with proliferation of overlying epithelial cells (Jones methenamine silver stain; original magnification x200).

• Electron microscopy reveals diffuse effacement of foot processes (arrow) and hypertrophy of podocytes with tubulovillous transformation (TEM, original magnification x2000).
APOL1

Control  

COVID-19 CG  

HIVAN
Phospho-STAT3 expression is significantly increased in podocytes and proximal tubular cells in COVID-19-associated CG and HIVAN as compared to normal kidney tissue.
Acute Kidney Injury and Collapsing Glomerulopathy Associated with COVID-19 and APOL1 Risk Alleles

**METHODS**

- 6 black patients with COVID-19, AKI and proteinuria
- Underwent kidney biopsy
- Genetic testing & RNA expression analysis

**OUTCOMES**

- **Collapsing glomerulopathy**
  - APOL1 alleles
    - 4/6 – G1/G1
    - 1/6 – G1/G2
    - 1/6 – G2/G2

- **Key Lab Values**
  - Serum Cr: 6.5 (2.9 – 11.4) mg/dL
  - UPCR: 11.5 (3.6 – 25.0) g/g

- **“Cytokine storm”**
  - Chemokines
  - Immunoglobulins
  - Fc receptors
  - MHC II

- **OUTCOMES**
  - No direct infection
  - No virions by EM
  - Neg SARS-CoV2 ISH
  - Neg SARS NanoString

- **CONCLUSION**
  - SARS-CoV-2 infection can trigger collapsing glomerulopathy in patients with 2 APOL1 risk alleles, causing AKI and nephrotic-range proteinuria in patients of African ancestry with COVID-19.

- **DNA extracted from peripheral blood or renal biopsy tissue**

- **PCR genotyping**

Velez et al. JASN 2020
Most laboratories perform APOL1 variant analysis using DNA sequencing that identifies the nucleotide polymorphisms that code for the different phenotypes.

However, the LabCorp method employs Liquid chromatography–mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) to determine the APOL1 phenotype by detecting expressed mature proteins.

Results can differ from DNA sequencing (e.g. patient specific transcription/translation differences).
Case 4 - Treatment

- 64 yo African American woman with HTN, DM, hyperlipidemia referred to nephrology after proteinuria discovered by PCP (the patient had complained of “foamy urine”)
- Her baseline Cr was 1.2-1.4 mg/dl but increased recently to 2.1 after a hospitalization for COVID-19
- APOL1 G1/G2
- At biopsy: Cr 1.53 mg/dl, eGFR 41 ml/min, UPCR 3,363 mg/g
- Kidney biopsy:
  - Focal global (13/35) and focal segmental glomerulosclerosis with collapsing features in 4 gloms
  - Interstitial fibrosis and tubular atrophy, moderate
  - Arterio- and arteriolosclerosis, moderate to severe
Putative mechanisms of APOL1 induced injury

- Ion channel formation
- Mitochondrial stress
- Lysosomal dysfunction
- ER stress
- Inflammasome activation
- Other (PKR activation, ↓ protein synthesis, ↓ ubiquitination)
**APOL1 Null Alleles from a Rural Village in India Do Not Correlate with Glomerulosclerosis**

Duncan B. Johnstone\(^1\)\(^{-}\)\(^3\), Vijay Shegokar\(^2\)\(^{-}\)\(^3\), Deepak Nihalani\(^1\), Yogendra Singh Rathore\(^3\), Leena Mallik\(^3\), Ashish\(^3\), Vasant Zare\(^3\), H. Omer Ikizler\(^1\), Rajaram Powar\(^3\), Lawrence B. Holzman\(^2\)

\(^1\)Renal-Electrolyte and Hypertension Division, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States of America, \(^2\)Department of Microbiology, Government Medical Hospital, Nagpur, Maharashtra, India, \(^3\)CSIR- Institute of Microbial Technology, Chandigarh, India, \(^4\)Public Health Institute of Nagpur, Maharashtra, India
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study ID</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NCT05237388</td>
<td>Janus Kinase-STAT Inhibition to Reduce APOL1 Associated Kidney Disease (JUSTICE)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Enrolling</td>
<td>JAK-STAT pathway inhibitor</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCT04340362</td>
<td>Phase 2a Study of VX-147 in Adults With APOL1-mediated Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis</td>
<td>2A</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>Compound inhibitor APOL1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCT05312879</td>
<td>Phase 2/3 Adaptive Study of VX-147 in Adult and Pediatric Participants With APOL1-Mediated Proteinuric Kidney Disease Mediated Proteinuric Kidney Disease (AMPLITUDE)</td>
<td>2A/3</td>
<td>Enrolling</td>
<td>Compound inhibitor APOL1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCT05324410</td>
<td>A Phase 1 Dose Escalation Study to Evaluate Safety and Pharmacokinetics (PK) of VX-840 in Healthy Participants</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>? Compound inhibitor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCT05351047</td>
<td>A Study to Assess Safety, Tolerability, PK and PD of AZD2373 in Healthy Male Participants of Sub-Saharan West African Ancestry</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>Antisense oligonucleotide inhibitor (ASOI)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APOL1 therapies in development
Percent inhibition of thallium ion flux

Inaxaplin inhibition of APOL1 induced thallium ion flux

Inaxaplin target binding

Inaxaplin reduction of UACR in APOL1 G2 mice
APOL1-mediated monovalent cation transport contributes to APOL1-mediated podocytopathy in kidney disease

Efficacy Outcomes in Ph2 Trial

A Change in Urinary Protein-to-Creatinine Ratio in Each Participant at Wk 13

B Change in Urinary Protein-to-Creatinine Ratio over Time

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE
# Demographic and Clinical Characteristics of the Participants at Baseline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Total (N = 16)</th>
<th>Participants with Nephrotic-Range Proteinuria (N = 3)</th>
<th>Participants with Subnephrotic-Range Proteinuria (N = 13)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age — yr</td>
<td>38.8±14.5</td>
<td>45.0±10.5</td>
<td>37.3±15.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex — no. (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>7 (44)</td>
<td>1 (33)</td>
<td>6 (46)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>9 (56)</td>
<td>2 (67)</td>
<td>7 (54)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APOE4 genotype — no. (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G1/G1</td>
<td>9 (56)</td>
<td>3 (100)</td>
<td>6 (46)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G2/G2</td>
<td>1 (6)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1 (9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G1/G2</td>
<td>6 (38)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6 (46)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body mass index</td>
<td>29.6±6.4</td>
<td>32.7±6.4</td>
<td>28.9±6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urinary protein-to-creatinine ratio†</td>
<td>2.08±0.90</td>
<td>3.47±1.07</td>
<td>1.77±0.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated GFR — ml/min/1.73 m²</td>
<td>51.2±14.0</td>
<td>51.4±22.2</td>
<td>51.2±12.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Standard-care medication

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACE inhibitor</th>
<th>8 (50)</th>
<th>1 (33)</th>
<th>7 (54)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On day 1 — no./total no. (%)</td>
<td>4/8 (100)</td>
<td>1/1 (100)</td>
<td>7/7 (100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angiotensin-receptor blocker</td>
<td>7 (44)</td>
<td>3 (100)</td>
<td>4 (31)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On day 1 — no./total no. (%)</td>
<td>6/7 (86)</td>
<td>2/3 (67%)</td>
<td>4/4 (100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunosuppressants§</td>
<td>4 (25)</td>
<td>1 (33)</td>
<td>3 (23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On day 1 — no./total no. (%)</td>
<td>4/4 (100)</td>
<td>1/1 (100)</td>
<td>3/3 (100)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Plus–minus values are means ±SD. Data are shown for all the participants who received at least one dose of inavaplin and who had at least one postbaseline efficacy assessment. Nephrotic-range proteinuria was defined as a urinary protein-to-creatinine ratio (with protein and creatinine both measured in grams) of at least 2.7 to less than 10 and an estimated glomerular filtration rate (GFR) of at least 27 ml per minute per 1.73 m² of body surface area. Subnephrotic-range proteinuria was defined as a urinary protein-to-creatinine ratio of at least 0.7 to less than 2.7 and an estimated GFR of at least 27 ml per minute per 1.73 m². ACE denotes angiotensin-converting enzyme.

† For the urinary protein-to-creatinine ratio, the baseline value was the mean of the urinary protein-to-creatinine ratios from three urine samples obtained during screening.

‡ One participant had a reduction in the dose during the screening period, which was documented as a postenrollment eligibility deviation.

§ Immunosuppressants included systemic glucocorticoids. The following medications were taken by participants: prednisone (one participant); mycophenolate mofetil (one), and tacrolimus (two).
## Mean Percent Change from the Baseline Urinary Protein-to-Creatinine Ratio at Week 13

### Table 2. Mean Percent Change from the Baseline Urinary Protein-to-Creatinine Ratio at Week 13.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Total (N = 13)</th>
<th>Participants with Nephrotic-Range Proteinuria (N = 3)</th>
<th>Participants with Subnephrotic-Range Proteinuria (N = 10)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean urinary protein-to-creatinine ratio</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At baseline</td>
<td>2.21±0.95</td>
<td>3.47±1.07</td>
<td>1.84±0.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At wk 13</td>
<td>1.27±0.73</td>
<td>1.83±0.58</td>
<td>1.10±0.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geometric percent change from baseline at wk 13 (95% CI)</td>
<td>−47.6 (−60.0 to −31.3)</td>
<td>−47.7 (−70.1 to −8.5)</td>
<td>−47.5 (−63.4 to −24.6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Plus–minus values are means ±SD. Baseline and week 13 assessments of the urinary protein-to-creatinine ratio for each of the participants were calculated as the mean of three first-morning void measurements obtained within a 7-day window. The efficacy analysis set included all the participants who completed inaxaplin treatment and had at least 80% adherence to treatment. CI denotes confidence interval.
# Adverse Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Total (N=16)</th>
<th>Participants with Nephrotic-Range Proteinuria (N=3)</th>
<th>Participants with Subnephrotic-Range Proteinuria (N=13)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any adverse event†</td>
<td>15 (94)</td>
<td>3 (100)</td>
<td>12 (92)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adverse events according to severity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mild</td>
<td>7 (44)</td>
<td>1 (33)</td>
<td>6 (46)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>8 (50)</td>
<td>2 (67)</td>
<td>6 (46)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life-threatening</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious adverse event‡</td>
<td>1 (6)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1 (8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adverse event leading to treatment discontinuation</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adverse event occurring in ≥2 participants</th>
<th>Total (N=16)</th>
<th>Participants with Nephrotic-Range Proteinuria (N=3)</th>
<th>Participants with Subnephrotic-Range Proteinuria (N=13)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Headache</td>
<td>4 (25)</td>
<td>1 (33)</td>
<td>3 (23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back pain</td>
<td>3 (19)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3 (23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nausea</td>
<td>3 (19)</td>
<td>1 (33)</td>
<td>2 (15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease in blood bicarbonate level</td>
<td>2 (12)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2 (15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diarrhea</td>
<td>2 (12)</td>
<td>1 (33)</td>
<td>1 (8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dizziness</td>
<td>2 (12)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2 (15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyspepsia</td>
<td>2 (12)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2 (15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
<td>2 (12)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2 (15)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The safety analysis included all the participants who received at least one dose of inaxapin.
† Adverse events that were considered by the investigator as being possibly related to inaxapin occurred in three participants: headache in one participant in the nephrotic-range group and in one in the subnephrotic-range group and headache, abdominal distension, dyspepsia, and back pain in one participant in the subnephrotic-range group.
‡ Two serious adverse events occurred in one participant: deep-vein thrombosis and uterine leiomyoma. Neither event was considered by the investigator to be related to inaxapin.
Other approaches to APOL1 inhibition
COVID-19 cytokines drive APOL1 expression in human iPSC organoids

Blocked by Baricitinib (JAK/STAT) inhibition
Viability of IFNα podocytes derived from organoids improved with JAK inhibition
Antisense oligonucleotide treatment ameliorates IFN-γ–induced proteinuria in APOL1-transgenic mice

Mariam Aghajan, …, Maria Chiara Magnone, Shuling Guo

Antisense oligonucleotides ameliorate kidney dysfunction in podocyte-specific APOL1 risk variant mice

Yu-Wen Yang, Bibek Poudel, Julia Frederick, Poonam Dhillon, Rojesh Shrestha, Ziyuan Ma, Junnan Wu, Koji Okamoto, Jeffrey H. Kopp, Sheri L. Botten, Danielle Gattis, Andrew T. Watt, Matthew Palmer, Marlam Aghajan, and Katalin Susztak
Apolipoprotein L1 (APOL1) risk variant toxicity depends on the haplotype background

Herbert Lannon¹, Shrijal S. Shah¹, Lenny Dias¹, Daniel Blackler¹, Seth L. Alper¹-², Martin R. Pollak¹-², and David J. Friedman¹

¹Division of Nephrology, Department of Medicine, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, USA; and ²Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

Genetic Inhibition of APOL1 Pore-Forming Function Prevents APOL1-Mediated Kidney Disease

Adriana M. Hung¹,², Victoria A. Assimon,² Hua-Chang Chen¹,³, Zhihong Yu¹,⁴, Caitlyn Vlasschaert,⁵ Jefferson L. Trizoli,⁶ Helen Chan,⁷ Lee Wheless,⁸, Otis Wilson¹,², Shailja C. Shah,¹ Taralynn Mack,¹,⁸, Trevor Thompson,¹,⁸, Michael E. Matheny,⁹ Saranya Chandrasekar,⁵ Sahar V. Mozaffari,⁶ Cecilia P. Chung,¹⁰ Philips Tsoo,¹,², Katalin Susztak,¹,¹¹, Edward D. Siew,¹,² Karol Estrada,¹ J. Michael Gaziano,¹,¹², Robert R. Graham,¹,², Ran Tao,¹,², Maarten Hoek,¹,² Cassianne Robinson-Cohen,², Eric M. Green¹,², and Alexander G. Bick,³,⁴ for the Million Veteran Program*
THERAPEUTIC TARGETING OF APOL1

- Upregulation of interferon leading to \( \uparrow \text{APOL1} \) gene transcription
- Endoplasmic reticulum stress
- Inflammasome leading to IL-1\( \beta \) activation
- Global suppression of protein synthesis
- Mitochondrial dysfunction
- \( \downarrow \text{Ubiquitin levels} \)
- Under ubiquitinylated APOL1
- Proteasome
- \( \downarrow \text{APOL1 degradation} \)
Patient participated in the Vertex Phase 2 study

Last 12 months:
- UPCR < 0.4 g/g
- eGFR 30-35 ml/min

Taking:
- Losartan 100 mg daily
- Semaglutide 2mg weekly
- Spironolactone 25 mg daily
CONCLUSIONS

• APOL1 diagnostic approaches are expanding and would benefit from point of care, rapid result turnaround

• Therapeutic options with different mechanisms of action are being developed in the context of clinical trials
  • Channel modulators
  • Anti-sense oligonucleotides
  • Modulators of protective APOL1 variants
  • Other approaches

• Remaining questions exist around mechanism(s) of APOL1-induced injury, precision-based approach to treatment, and optimal supportive care