



**Weill Cornell Medicine**

**NewYork-Presbyterian**

**Preliminary Results from a First-in-Human Phase I/II Gene Therapy Study (FOCUS) of Subretinally Delivered GT005, an Investigational AAV2 Vector, in Patients With Geographic Atrophy Secondary to Age-Related Macular Degeneration**

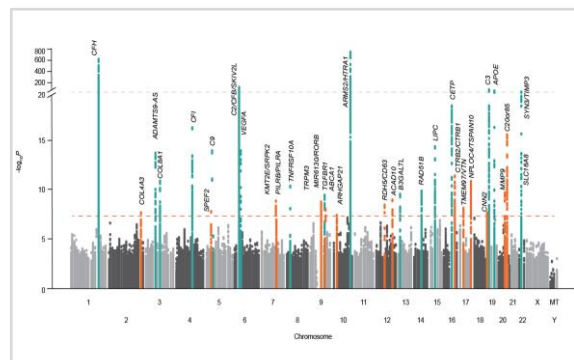
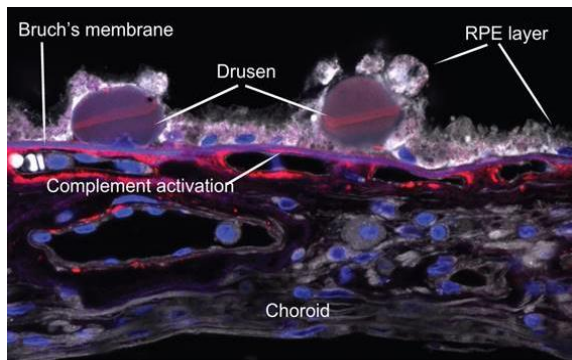
Szilárd Kiss, MD

ASRS 2022 ANNUAL MEETING

# Complement Inhibition Is a Validated Approach for Geographic Atrophy (GA)<sup>1,2</sup>

- Overactivation of the complement system leads to inflammation that can damage retinal tissues<sup>3</sup>
- Variants in multiple complement genes, including complement factor I (CFI), have been shown to be associated with an increased risk of developing age-related macular degeneration (AMD)<sup>2,4</sup>
- Clinical trials have shown that complement inhibition slows growth of GA<sup>2,5,6</sup>

Pathology<sup>7</sup> ▶

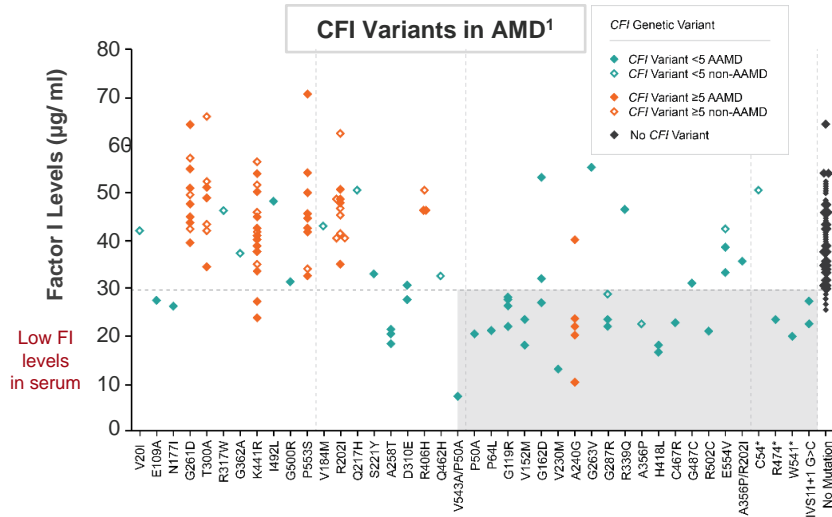


◀ Genetics<sup>8</sup>

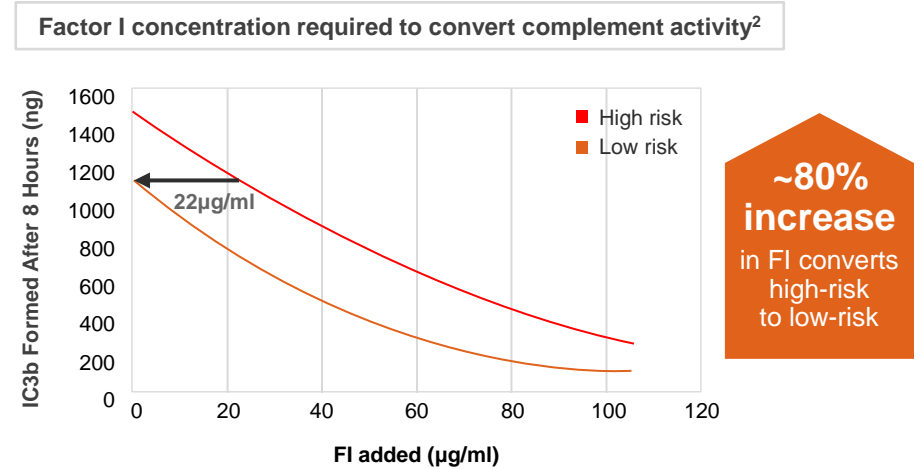
1. Boyer DS, et al. *Retina*. 2017;37:819-35. 2. Liao D, et al. *Ophthalmology*. 2020;127:186-95. 3. Lachmann PJ. *Adv Immunol*. 2009;104:115-49. 4. Harris CL, et al. *Trends Immunol*. 2012;33:513-21. 5. Jaffe GJ, et al. *Ophthalmology*. 2021;128:576-86. 6. Wykoff C. American Academy of Ophthalmology 2021, oral presentation. 7. Forest DL, et al. *Dis Model Mech*. 2015;8:421-7. 8. Fritsche LG, et al. *Nat Genet*. 2016;48:134-43.

# Factor I (FI) Is Strongly Associated With Development of AMD<sup>1,2</sup>

## People with CFI Rare Variants Have Higher Risk of Advanced Disease<sup>1</sup>

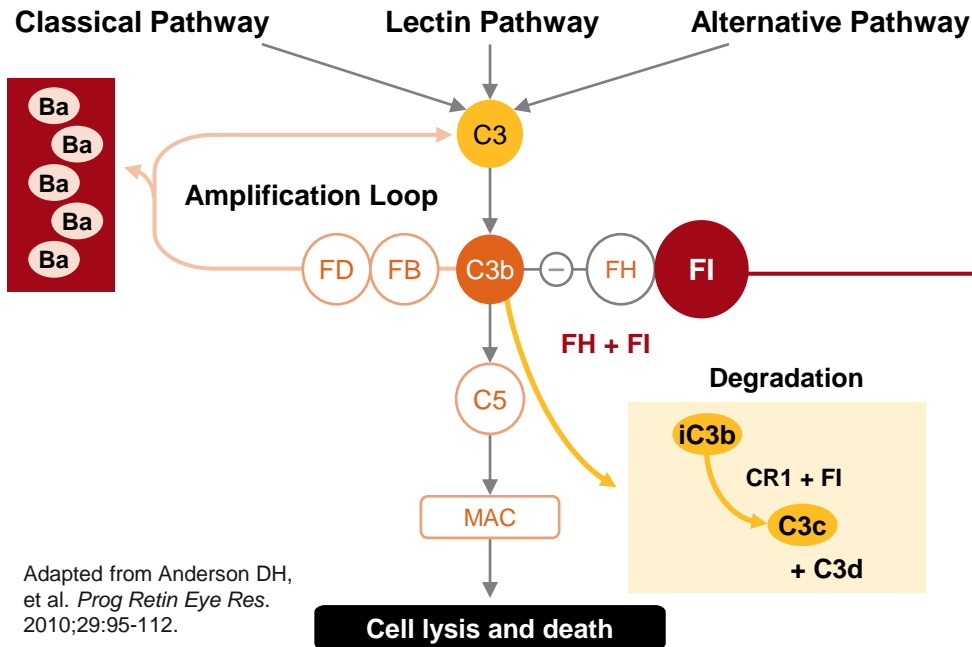


## FI Supplementation May Reduce Complement Activation Regardless of Underlying Genetic Risk<sup>2</sup>



1. Kavanagh D, et al. Hum Mol Genet. 2015;24:3861-70. 2. Lachmann PJ, et al. Clin Exp Immunol. 2016;183:150-6.

# FI: Key Downregulator of the Complement System



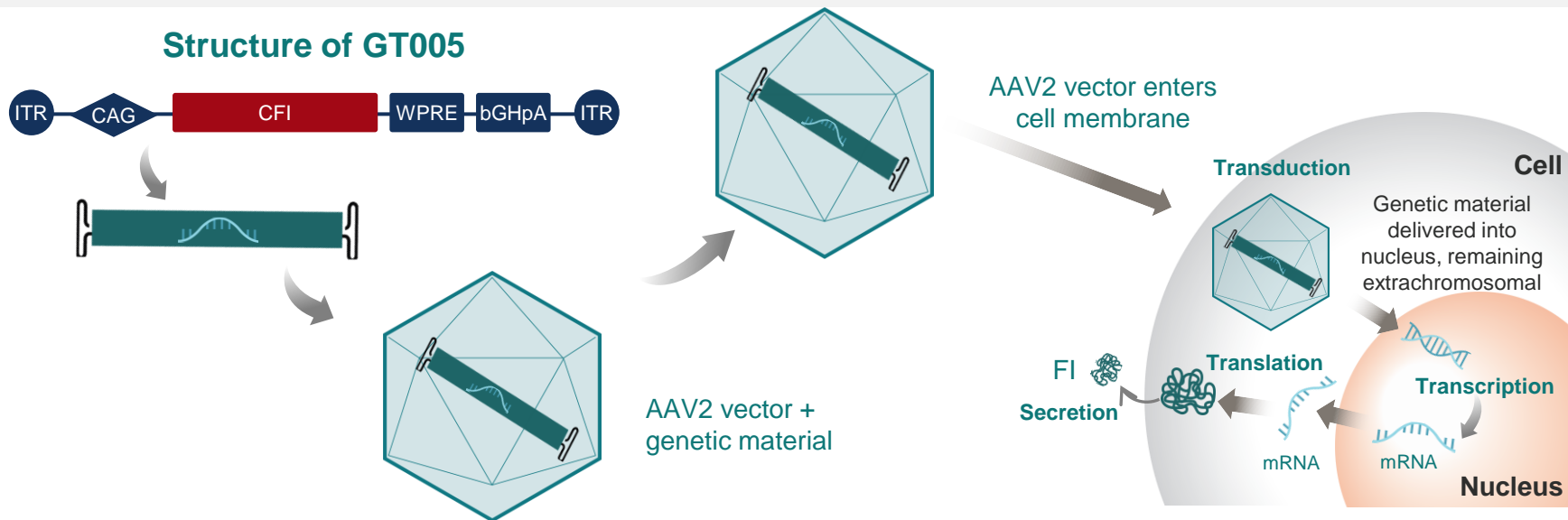
Recent studies have shown that complement system targets are highly implicated in AMD progression<sup>1-3</sup>

- Intrinsic protein produced by RPE cells
- Inducing FI expression leads to continual, sustained decreases in key proteins involved in complement overactivation (C3, Ba, C3b, iC3b)

Adapted from Anderson DH, et al. *Prog Retin Eye Res.* 2010;29:95-112.

1. Liao DS, et al. *Ophthalmology.* 2020;172:186-95. 2. Jaffe GJ, et al. *Ophthalmology.* 2020;1:S0161. 3. Wykoff C. American Academy of Ophthalmology 2021, oral presentation.

# GT005\* Is an AAV2-Based Gene Therapy Designed to Induce Expression of FI<sup>1,2</sup>



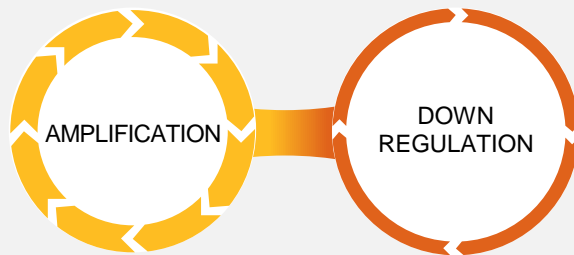
\*GT005 is an investigational medication being studied as a treatment for geographic atrophy. It has not been approved for use by the FDA or any health authority and its efficacy and safety profiles have not been established.

AAV=Adeno-associated virus. bGHPA=poly A signal. CAG=CAG promoter. ITR=Inverse terminal repeat. mRNA=Messenger ribonucleic acid. WPRE=Woodchuck Hepatitis Virus (WHP) Posttranscriptional Regulatory Element.

1. Goswami R, et al. *Front Oncol.* 2019;9:297. 2. Wang D, et al. *Nat Rev Drug Discov.* 2019;18:358-78.

# One-time Gene Therapy May Offer Durable Therapeutic Effect With Single Intervention

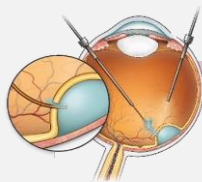
Complement system is always 'on'



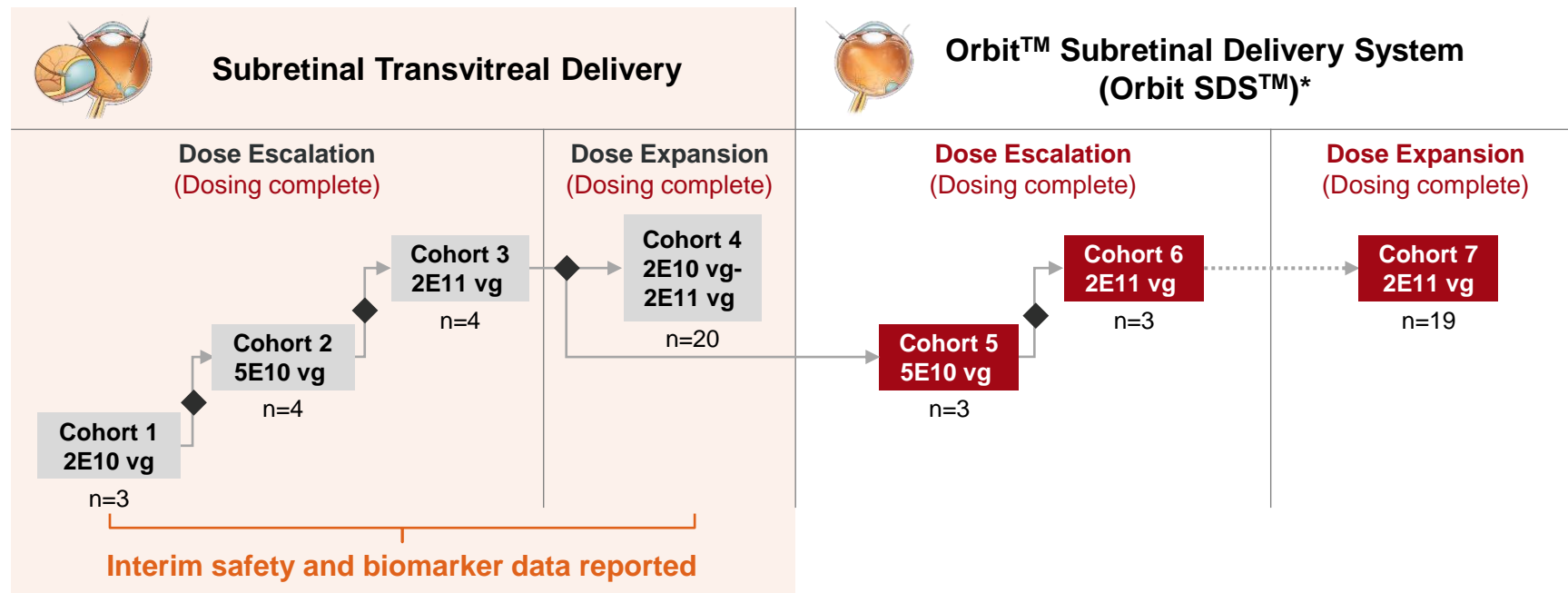
IVT therapies require repeat injections to maintain effect



Gene therapy designed to provide durable effect with single administration



# Phase I/II Open-Label GT005 Safety and Dose Response Trial



◆ = Safety Evaluation (after 3 participants complete 5 weeks follow-up)

\*Orbit SDS™ is indicated in the United States for microinjection into the subretinal space. The 510(k) clearance is based upon the use of Balanced Salt Solution (BSS or BSS PLUS). Gyroscope is evaluating delivery of its investigational gene therapy, GT005, using the Orbit SDS™ in its clinical development program. Cohorts 5-7 enrolled subjects in the United States only. The Orbit SDS™ has recently received the EU CE mark and is intended for microinjection of balanced salt solution, followed by precision delivery of infusate, into the subretinal space. The CE mark is based on delivery of medicinal product as infusate.

# GT005 Dose Levels Have Been Well Tolerated in Cohorts 1-4

March 2022 Safety Analysis, N=31

## GT005 well tolerated

- No GT005-related SAEs
- No safety signal on laboratory parameters
- RPE changes noted in some subjects in the high dose group; restricted to the bleb area with no significant visual changes

## Most surgery-related TEAEs were mild (TEAEs with 'unknown' relationship are included)

### 20 mild

- Most frequent TEAEs: 5 RPE changes, 3 cataracts

### 11 moderate

- 6 cataracts; 1 allergy to surgical sutures, 1 choroidal neovascularization, 1 intra-ocular injection complication (sub-RPE injection), 1 RPE changes, 1 visual impairment

SAE=Serious adverse event. RPE=Retinal pigment epithelium. TEAEs=Treatment-Emergent Adverse Events.



# Interim Data Show No Clinically Significant GT005-Related Inflammation

- GT005 is associated with clinically benign immunogenicity
- No antibody-mediated immunogenicity to the CFI transgene
- No significant association of immune responses with adverse events
- Vector shedding profile is aligned with other rAAV ocular therapies, with no viral vector detected at week 1 or week 5

Data on file as of January 2022.

## Interim FOCUS Immunogenicity Data

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### AAV2 neutralizing antibodies (n=20)

- Pre-existing antibodies to AAV2 vector in 11 patients
- 1 patient with a transient increase in anti-AAV2 titer at week 5
- 19 patients show no change in anti-AAV2 titers post treatment

### T-cell immunogenicity (n=25)

- Pre-existing T-cell immunogenicity to AAV2 vector in 1 patient
- 2 patients with a low magnitude increase in T-cell response post treatment

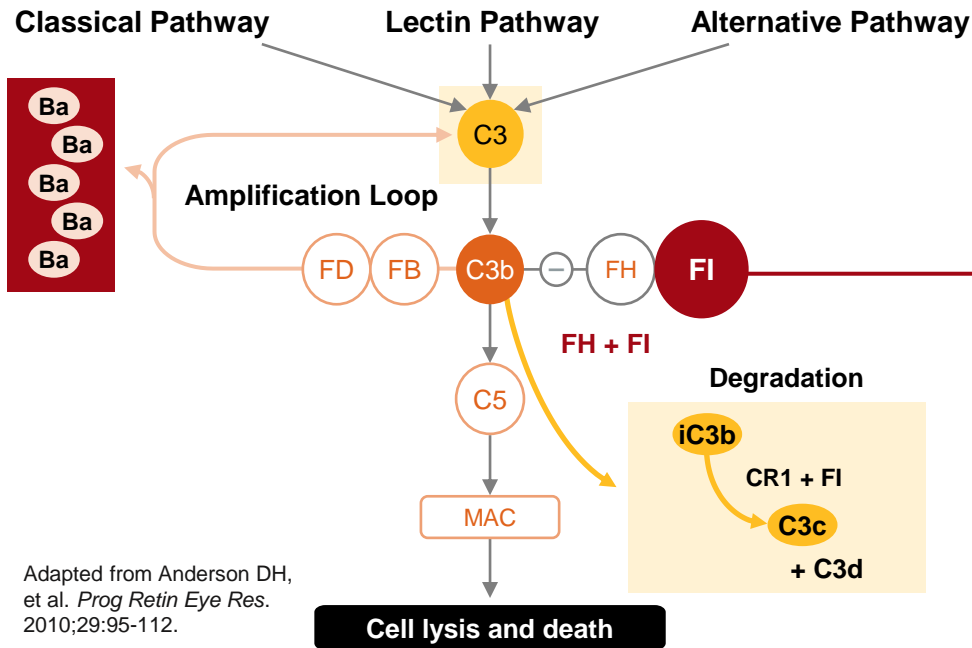
### Anti-FI antibodies (n=20)

- No anti-FI (transgene protein) antibodies to date

### AAV2 vector shedding (n=21)

- No vector detected in urine or blood
- Low levels of vector detected in saliva or tears of 5 patients 12-24 hours post-GT005; no vector detected at week 1 or 5

# FI: Key Downregulator of the Complement System



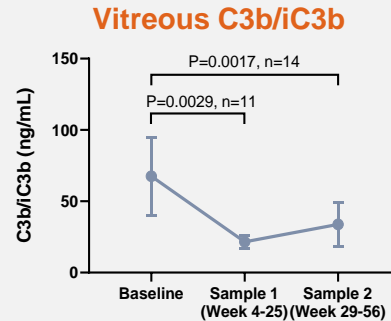
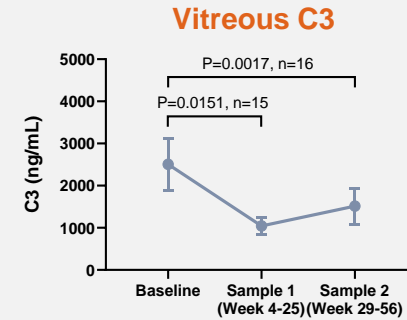
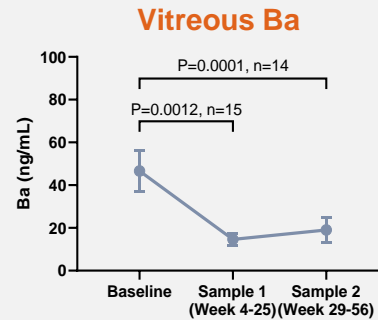
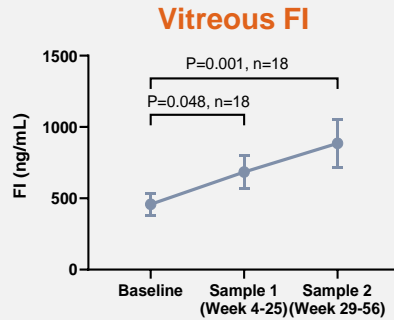
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# GT005 Generated Sustained Increases in Vitreous FI and Decreases in Downstream Proteins Involved in Overactivation of Complement System

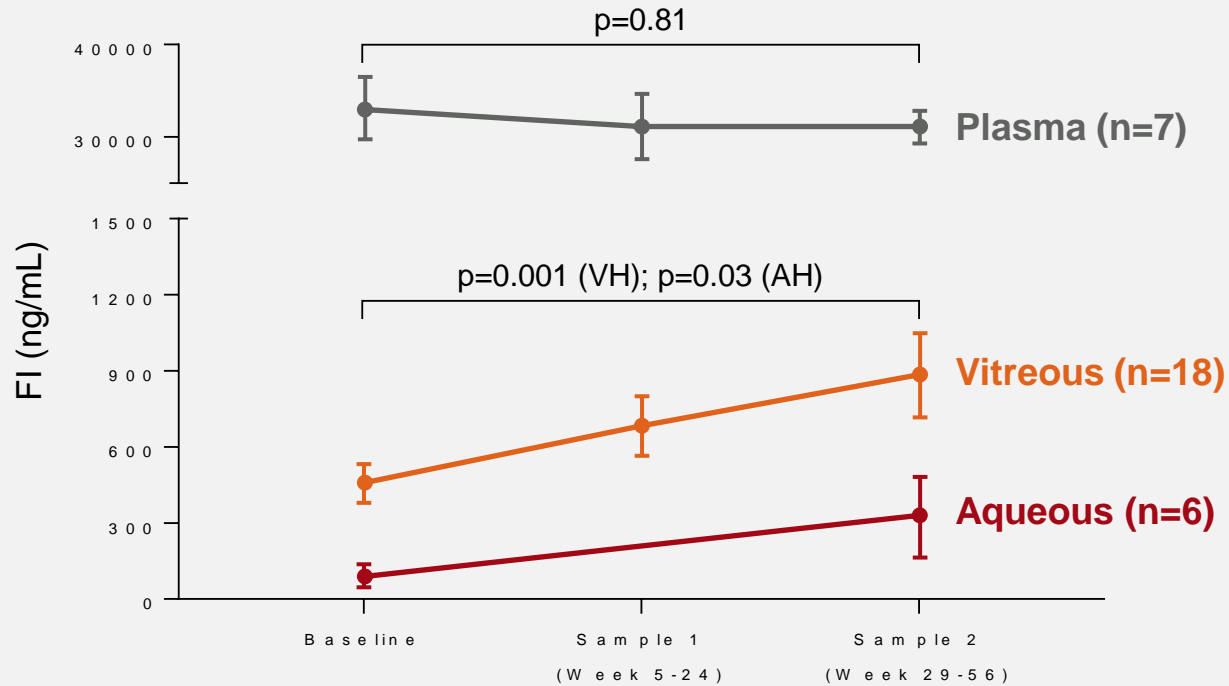


- Significant increases compared to baseline in vitreous FI post GT005

- GT005 not only impacts complement activation (Ba, C3b/iC3b) but also input of C3 to the ocular complement system
- Reduction of chronic inflammatory drive would result in an overall reduction in production of C3

Data shown as mean + SEM; Stats: Wilcoxon matched paired analysis. Data on file as of January 2022.

# Elevation in Aqueous FI Mirrors Vitreous FI



Data shown as mean + SEM; Stats: Wilcoxon matched paired analysis. Data on file as of January 2022.

# Take Home Messages

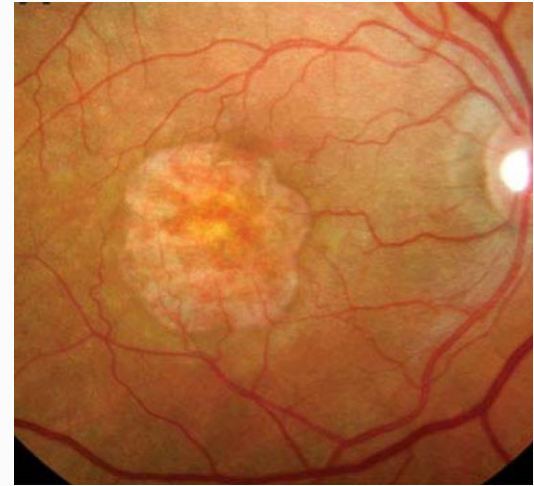
## GT005\*: Potential one-time gene therapy targeting complement activation is well tolerated with increased FI levels and downstream biomarker reduction

- FI is a natural regulator of the complement system<sup>1,2</sup>
- GT005 has been well tolerated to date in GA patients in the ongoing FOCUS Phase I/II trial
- Significant, sustained increases compared to baseline in vitreous FI occur after one treatment
- Early data show most patients experience increased vitreous FI and downstream modulation of complement biomarkers, consistent with reduced complement activity
- Randomized controlled Phase II trials evaluating safety and efficacy of GT005 are ongoing<sup>†</sup>

\*GT005 is an investigational medication being studied as a treatment for geographic atrophy. It has not been approved for use by the FDA or any health authority and its efficacy and safety profiles have not been established. <sup>†</sup>ClinicalTrials.gov NCT04437368 and NCT04566445.

GA=Geographic atrophy.

1. Lachmann PJ. *Immunobiology*. 2019;224:511-17. 2. Lachmann PJ. *Adv Immunol*. 2009;104:115-49.



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# Acknowledgements

## Participants

## Principal Investigators

- Clare Bailey, MD, FRCP, FRCOphth
- David Eichenbaum, MD
- Jeff Heier, MD
- Allen Ho, MD
- Nancy Holekamp, MD
- Tsveta Ivanova, DM, PhD, MRCOphth
- Arshad Khanani, MD, MA
- Robert MacLaren, MB ChB, Dphil, FRCOphth, FRCS, FACS, FMedSci VR
- Raj Maturi, MD
- Jared Nielsen, MD, MBA
- Chris Riemann, MD
- Sobha Sivaprasad, MBBS, MS, DM, FRCS, FRCOphth, FRCSEd
- Paulo Stanga, MD
- David Steel, MBBS, MD, FRCOphth

## Study Teams

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