Paci-PHI

Evolution-proof therapy against MDR bacterial pathogens



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EXPERT TEAM



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World renowned expert in bacteriophage biology and microbial evolution



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10 years of industry and academic experience developing and using therapeutic phage. Highly accomplished and respected physician.

PROBLEM: Antibiotic resistance crisis

- Global problem: Increasing proportion of bacteria show resistance to antibiotics.
- Pace of antibiotic discovery has not kept up with evolution of bacterial resistance.





ALTERNATIVE: Phage therapy

- Phages are viruses that specifically kill only certain bacteria.
- Phages are self-amplifying 'drugs', designated *GRAS* (generally regarded as safe) by FDA.



Lytic phage reproduction

ALTERNATIVE: Phage therapy is SAFE

- SAFE: Example phage products designated as GRAS: Listshield (2006), Intralytix, USA PhageGuard Listex (2008), Micreos, Netherlands PhageGuard Salmonelex (2010), Micreos, Netherlands
- NON-IMMUNOGENIC: Immune response to phages is minimal (if at all).
- INEXPENSIVE: Phages can be cheaply produced in large volumes.

Accelerated approval for Phase II trials is possibility.



PROBLEM: Evolution of phage resistance

• HOWEVER, bacteria can evolve phage resistance, similar to antibiotic problem:



SOLUTION: Force evolutionary trade-offs in target bacteria

INNOVATION: Use phages to select for <u>antibiotic re-sensitivity</u> and <u>reduced virulence</u> in pathogenic bacteria

Antibiotic Resistance/Virulence



Phage Resistance

Re-sensitizing bacteria to antibiotics therefore extends the lifetime <u>and</u> improves the effectiveness of current antibiotics.

PROOF: In vitro and in vivo data targeting MDR P. aeruginosa

- Pseudomonas aeruginosa is priority pathogen (World Health Organization, 2017).
- Hospital infections on rise; high mortality in cystic fibrosis, severe burn, immunocompromised patients.



Phage OMKO1 broadly selects for antibiotic re-sensitivity in clinical, environmental, and model strains, because **OprM** binding target highly genetically conserved.

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CAZ = ceftazidime CIP = ciprofloxacin

PROOF: In vitro and in vivo data targeting MDR P. aeruginosa

• In vivo data show phage-antibiotic synergy that rescues mice from lethal pneumonia



Controls:





Low dose Meropenem

Phage rescue mice at all drug doses:



PROOF: Emergency phage treatment in 2 patients

 Jan 2016 – complete resolution of MDR *P. aeruginosa* biofilm infection of indwelling prosthesis (aortic arch graft) in elderly man;



aortic arch replacement



intraoperative photo

Chan et al. 2018 *Evolution, Medicine & Public Health* See also: NPR Science Friday, 2016, 2018



CT image showing infected collection and site of targeted aspiration during therapy



Treated patient in 2017 with Drs. Turner and Chan

STAT Online News: In the Lab

A virus, fished out of a lake, may have saved a man's life — and advanced science By Carl Zimmer December 7, 2016

PROOF: Emergency phage treatment in 2 patients

 Dec 2017 – complete re-sensitization to antibiotics in Pan-Drug Resistant *P. aeruginosa*-infected lungs of 22-year-old woman with cystic fibrosis.



Change in <i>P. aeruginosa</i> pre vs. post treatment			
Aminoglycoside	Amikacin	R	S
	Gentamycin	R	S
	Tobramycin	R	IR
Fluoroquinolone	Ciprofoxacin	R	S
	Levofloxacin	R	S
Cephalosporin	Ceftazadime	R	S
	Cefepime	R	S
Beta lactam	Piperacillin	R	S
	Imipenem	R	S
	Meropenem	R	S
	Aztreonam	R	S
Polymyxin	Colistin	R	R



Treated patient in 2018 with Dr. Chan

Intellectual property / Future plans

- 'Phage composition forcing trade-off between phage resistance and antibiotic sensitivity' international patent filed by Yale (2016)
- Seeking U.S. FDA approval (and funding) for phase I/II clinical trials:
 - Acute (including hospital acquired) pneumonia
 - Cystic fibrosis associated pulmonary infections
 - Urinary tract infections (including catheter-associated)
 - Burn/wound infections



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- Held FDA type B meeting in 2017
 - No call for toxicology or pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamics studies
 - ✤ With secured funding, will apply for IND to perform phase I/II trials
 - ✤ Hospital in NC with prepared IRB and identified patients; active discussions with YNHH and TX hospital

Intellectual property / Future plans

- Our library contains 100s of phages, with abundant candidates that force similar trade-offs in clinically relevant bacteria, aside from *Pseudomonas aeruginosa**:
 - Salmonella*
 - Shigella spp.*
 - Klebsiella pneumoniae
 - ✤ Vibrio cholerae
 - ✤ Pathogenic E. coli

* World Health Organization Priority MDR Pathogen List (2017)



Figure 5-24 Introduction to Genetic Analysis, Tenth Edition © 2012 W. H. Freeman and Company

Business MODEL / Funding REQUEST



BLAVATNIK FUNDING REQUEST

We request \$300K for scale-up and production, in developing our most promising phage-therapy candidate against MDR *P. aeruginosa*.

FUNDING details

COST BREAKDOWN

Funding used to:

- Establish master bank
- Scale-up production
- Conduct sterility/stability testing of materials for clinical trial (50 patients, phase I/II)

All in approved GMP facility: Adaptive Phage Therapeutics; Gaithersburg, MD Total cost: <u>\$560K</u>

We negotiated one-time reduced cost as research outcome would be mutually beneficial. Actual cost: <u>\$300K</u>