



# Unlocking the Pharmaceutical Potential of Cannabinoids

**Corporate Deck**

February 2021 • OTCQB: SKYE

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## Overview

Biopharmaceutical company developing differentiated, synthetic, proprietary cannabinoid derivatives to treat glaucoma and other diseases with significant unmet medical needs

OTCQB:

SKYE

### NOVEL TECHNOLOGY

Bioengineered, synthetic cannabinoid derivatives designed to significantly enhance therapeutic benefits

### COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITY

\$6.6B+ market opportunity for lead indication, glaucoma

### INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Broad “composition of matter” patent protection

### EXPERIENCED TEAM

Track record of rapidly advancing preclinical candidates through to human trials and securing strategic pharma partnerships

### MILESTONES

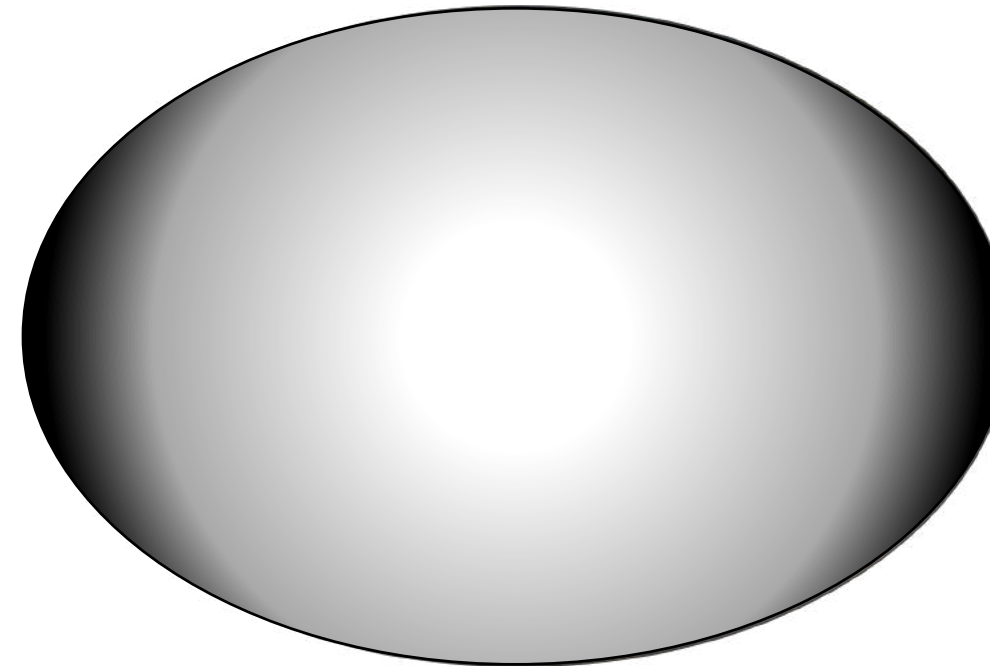
Key preclinical data expected in Q2-21 & first-in-human data in Q1-21

# Glaucoma is the leading cause of irreversible blindness

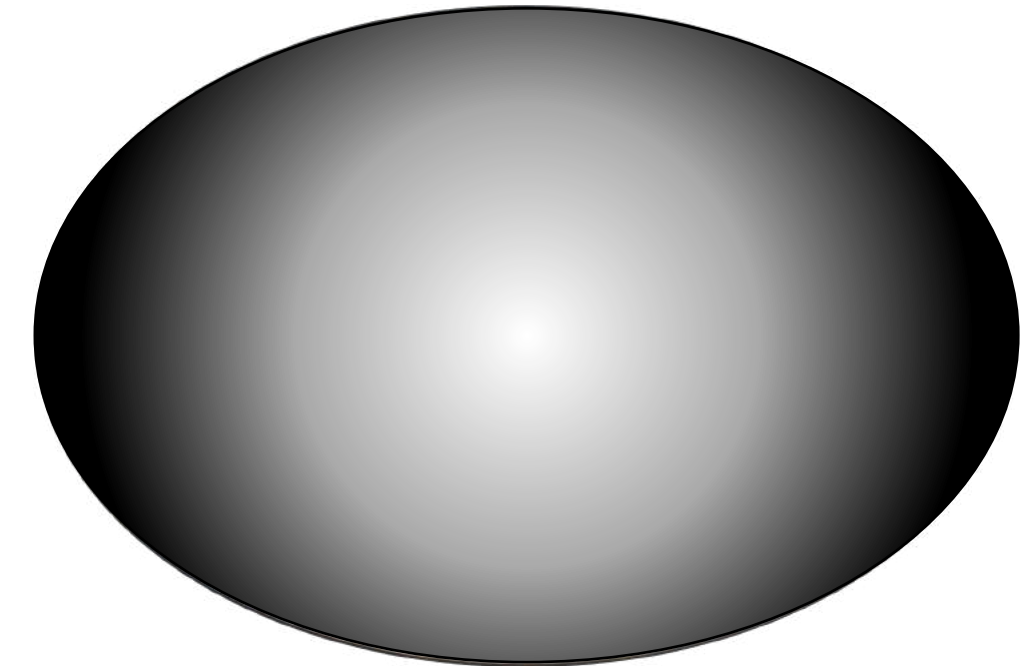
Glaucoma is a disease that leads to the progressive damage of retinal ganglion cells, which make up the optic nerve, and without intervention will gradually lead to irreversible blindness



**Healthy  
Vision**



**Early  
Glaucoma**

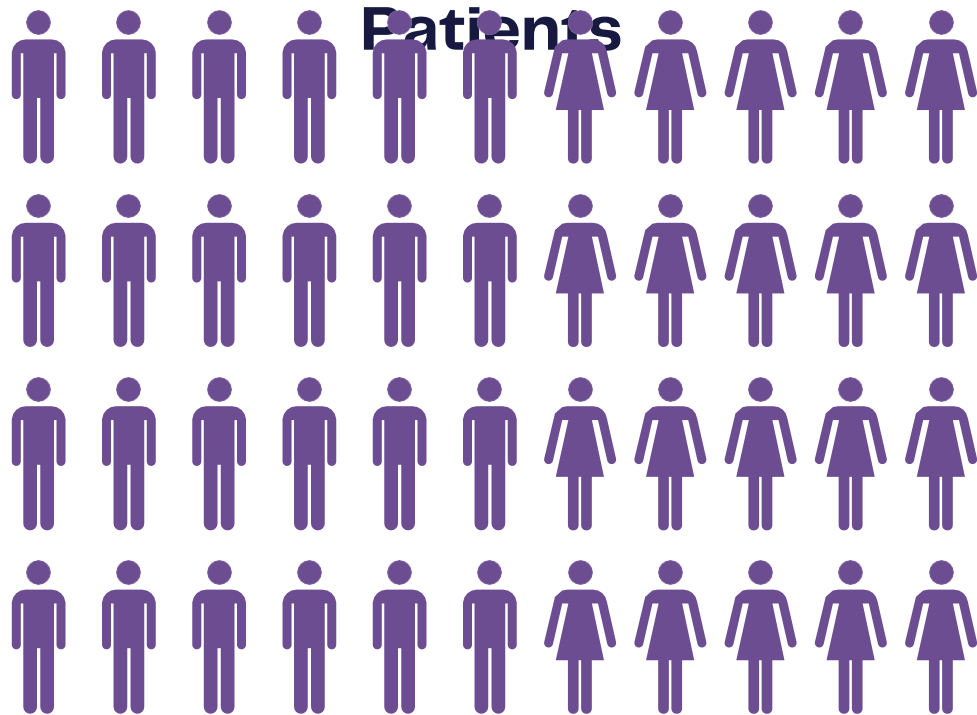


**Advanced  
Glaucoma**

# Large & growing patient population

78M

Current Glaucoma Patients



100M

2040 Predicted Glaucoma Patients

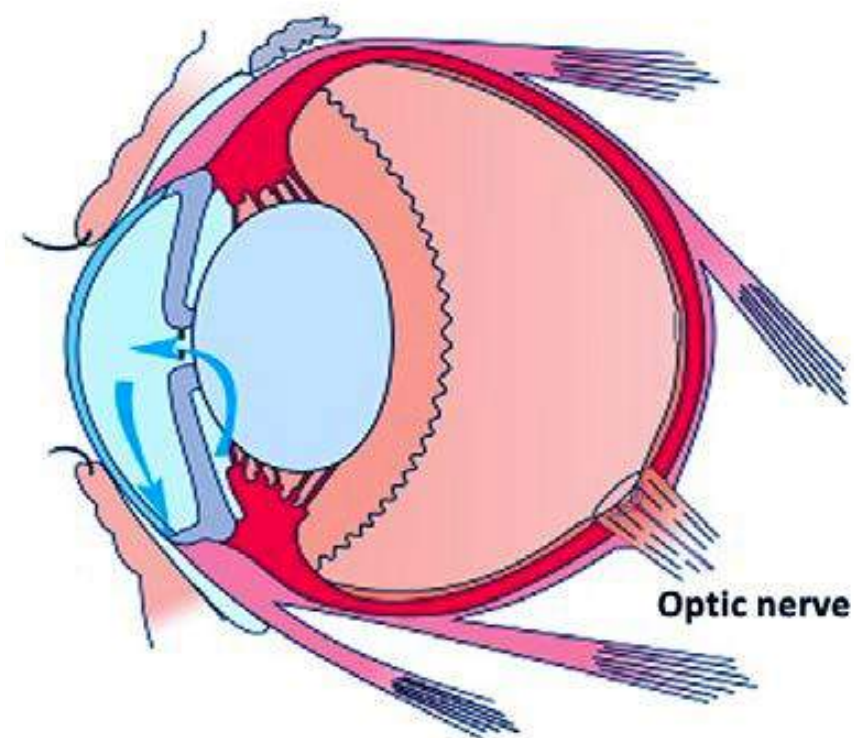


\$6.6B current global market and expected to reach \$11B by 2027 with a growing aging population (CAGR 6.6%)

## How does glaucoma cause blindness?

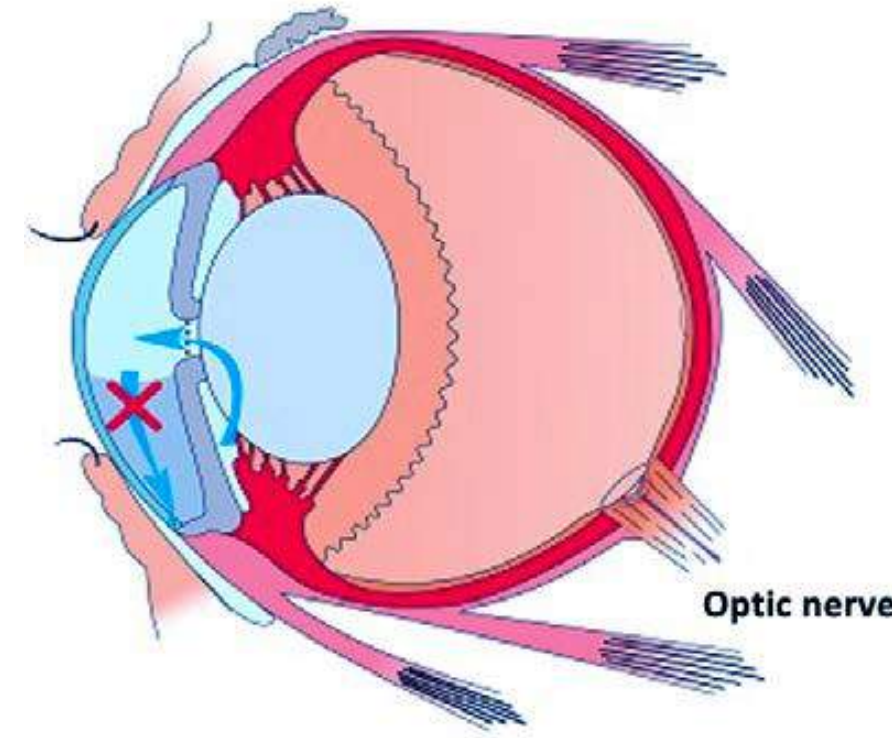
A common trait of glaucoma involves increased pressure in the eye – intraocular pressure (IOP)

HEALTHY

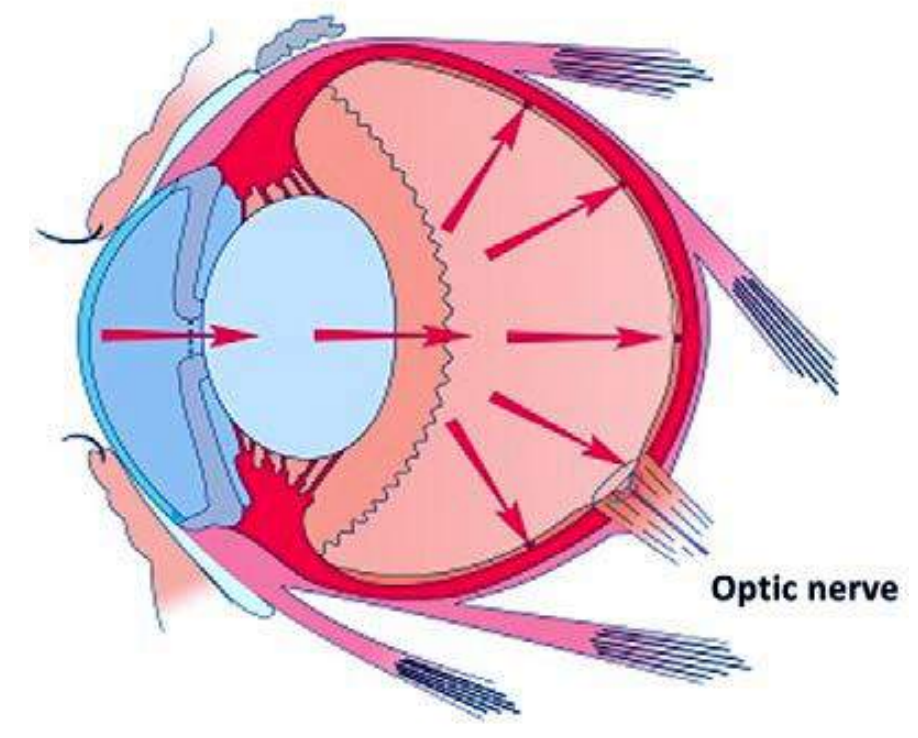


Production/drainage of aqueous humor (fluid) balanced

GLAUCOMA



Drainage canal becomes blocked, fluid builds up and leads to increased pressure



Increased pressure damages optic nerve cells, resulting in vision loss

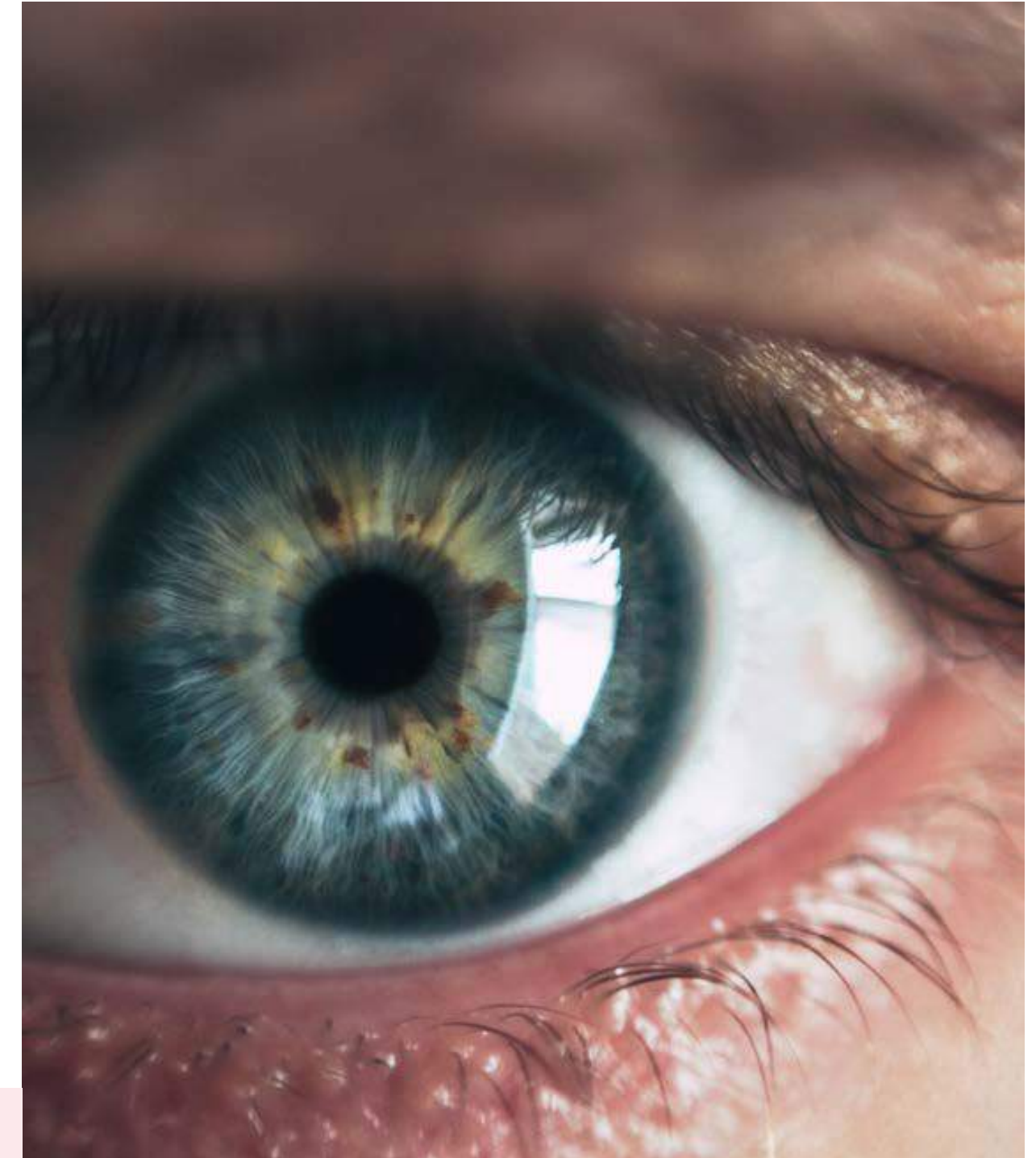
## Current therapies leave notable unmet needs

- Current drugs aim to lower IOP in order to slow disease progression
- Many patients are non-responders, have poor response, or develop tolerance
- >50% of patients require 2 or more drugs, can increase side effects and reduce compliance
- Lack of innovation, presents an opportunity and need for new classes of therapy

Class of Medication	Generic Example	IOP Reduction	MOA		Potential Side Effects
Prostaglandins	Latanoprost	30-35%	↑ Outflow		irritation, redness, blurred vision, dry eyes, light sensitivity, headaches, eyelash changes, browning of iris
β-Adrenergic Blockers	Timolol	20-25%		↓ Production	irritation, dry eyes, headache, slowed heart rate
α-Adrenergic Blockers	Brimonidine	20-25%	↑ Outflow	↓ Production	irritation, redness, blurred vision, dry eyes, light sensitivity, fatigue, headaches, nausea, insomnia
Carbonic Anhydrase Inhibitors	Dorzolamide	20-25%		↓ Production	irritation, redness, blurred vision, dry eyes, light sensitivity, fatigue, headaches
Cholinergic Agonists	Pilocarpine	20-25%	↑ Outflow		irritation, blurred vision, poor vision in dim light, headaches
Rho-kinase inhibitors	Netarsudil	16–21%	↑ Outflow	↓ Production	irritation, redness, corneal deposits, broken blood vessels
Nitric oxide-donating prostaglandin analogue	Latanoprostene bunod	32–34%	↑ Outflow		Irritation, redness, discharge, pain, eyelash changes
FC rho-kinase inhibitor/latanoprost	Netarsudil/latanoprost	30–36%	↑ Outflow	↓ Production	irritation, redness, corneal deposits, broken blood vessels

## Relevance of THC to glaucoma

- Cannabinoid receptors throughout the body play an important role in managing many vital body functions
- Eye is rich with cannabinoid receptors, specifically in tissues involved in managing fluid production and drainage as well as cells responsible for vision
- THC and the CB1 receptor, specifically, have been shown to be involved in IOP lowering activity
- First report that smoking cannabis lowers IOP appeared in early 1970s
- Multiple human studies have validated THC's ability to lower IOP



# Multiple independent studies have demonstrated THC's ability to lower IOP

**Table 1**  
Studies using cannabinoids in human subjects to lower intraocular pressure (IOP).

Subjects	Administration route	Observations	Ref.
15 Male, 18–30 years old	smoking marijuana (12 mg Δ <sup>9</sup> -THC)	significant IOP decrease after 80 min, more frequent users showed lower or no IOP drop	[74]
10 healthy volunteers, 20–30 years old	0.022 or 0.044 mg/kg of Δ <sup>9</sup> -THC intravenously	IOP decrease in 9 patients with low dose and all subjects with high dose	[75]
256 glaucomatous patients	smoking marijuana (1–4% Δ <sup>9</sup> -THC) or 5–20 mg oral Δ <sup>9</sup> -THC	most patients showed IOP reduction, additive effect was seen with conventional glaucoma drugs	[76]
A 23-year-old male (suffers of HPPD), 4 young subjects (control), 23–28 years old	smoking marijuana	HPPD in patient, no change in the controls	[77]
9 patients with end-stage open angle glaucoma, 38–77 years old	smoking marijuana or oral Δ <sup>9</sup> -THC capsules	lower IOP, development of tolerance and significant systemic toxicity that limit the usefulness	[78]
6 patients with ocular hypertension or early primary open angle glaucoma	single sublingual preparation (5 mg Δ <sup>9</sup> -THC or 20 and 40 mg CBD)	significant IOP decrease by Δ <sup>9</sup> -THC, 40 mg CBD produced a transient IOP increase, no significant side effect	[79]
8 patients with glaucoma resistant to conventional treatments, 53–72 years old	topical application of WIN55212-2	IOP decreased directly through CB1	[80]
18 patients suffers of glaucoma	single oral dose of nabilone (0.5 mg)	IOP decreased by 27.9%, 2–6 h after administration, no visual side effect	[81]
32 patients suffers of glaucoma	BW29Y (5 or 10 mg) or BWI46Y (4, 8, or 12 mg)	BW29Y: ineffective, BWI46Y: IOP drop, lightheaded, dizzy, disorientation, blood pressure drop	[82]

HPPD: Hallucinogen persisting perception disorder; IOP: intraocular pressure; Δ<sup>9</sup>-THC: Δ<sup>9</sup>-tetrahydrocannabinol; CBD: cannabidiol; WIN55212-2, Nabilone, BW29Y, BWI46Y: synthetic cannabinoids.

Y. Panahi et al. / Biomedicine & Pharmacotherapy 86 (2017) 620–627

# Challenges to THC as an effective treatment of glaucoma

## Systemic Delivery

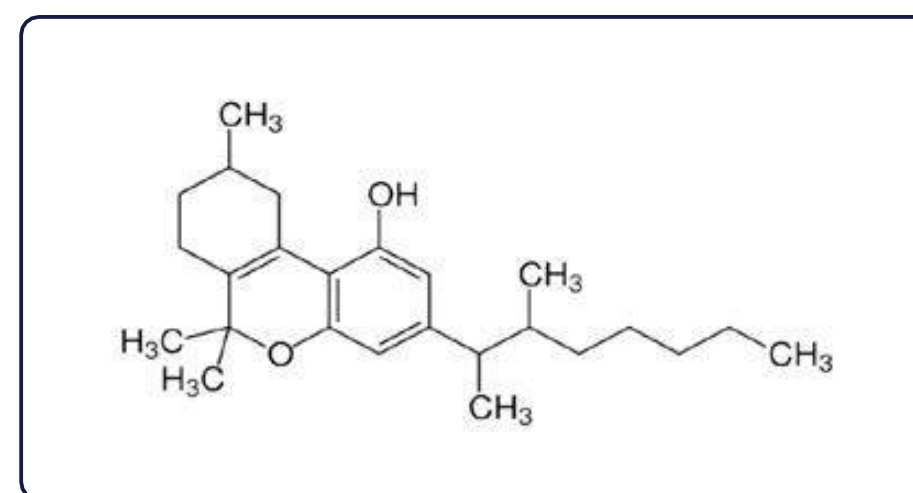
- Requires relatively high dose to achieve therapeutic effect in the eye
- Variable pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics
- Poor oral bioavailability when ingested (<10% due to poor absorption)
- Limited duration of effect when inhaled/smoked (<90 min)
- Systemic side effects – psychoactive effect (high from THC); detrimental drops in blood pressure

## Local Delivery

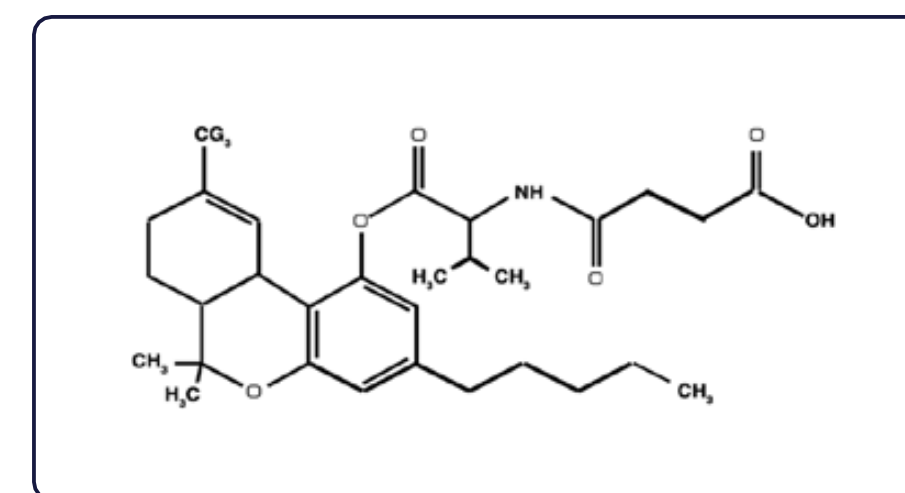
- THC is lipophilic – challenging to deliver into and penetrate aqueous tissue, like the eye
- Oil and water don't mix!

## SKYE's approach unlocks therapeutic value of THC

- Rational drug design and bioengineering used to develop a synthetic prodrug of THC, called THCVHS
- **Valine-hemi-succinate** amide ester (**VHS**) addition to THC enhances aqueous solubility and polarity characteristics, enabling significantly improved local delivery into the eye and avoiding systemic effects
- Inside the eye, THCVHS is converted back into THC by enzymes that cleave VHS arm of the molecule
- THCVHS is a proprietary molecule with composition of matter patents providing intellectual property protection that is instrumental to value creation



TH  
C

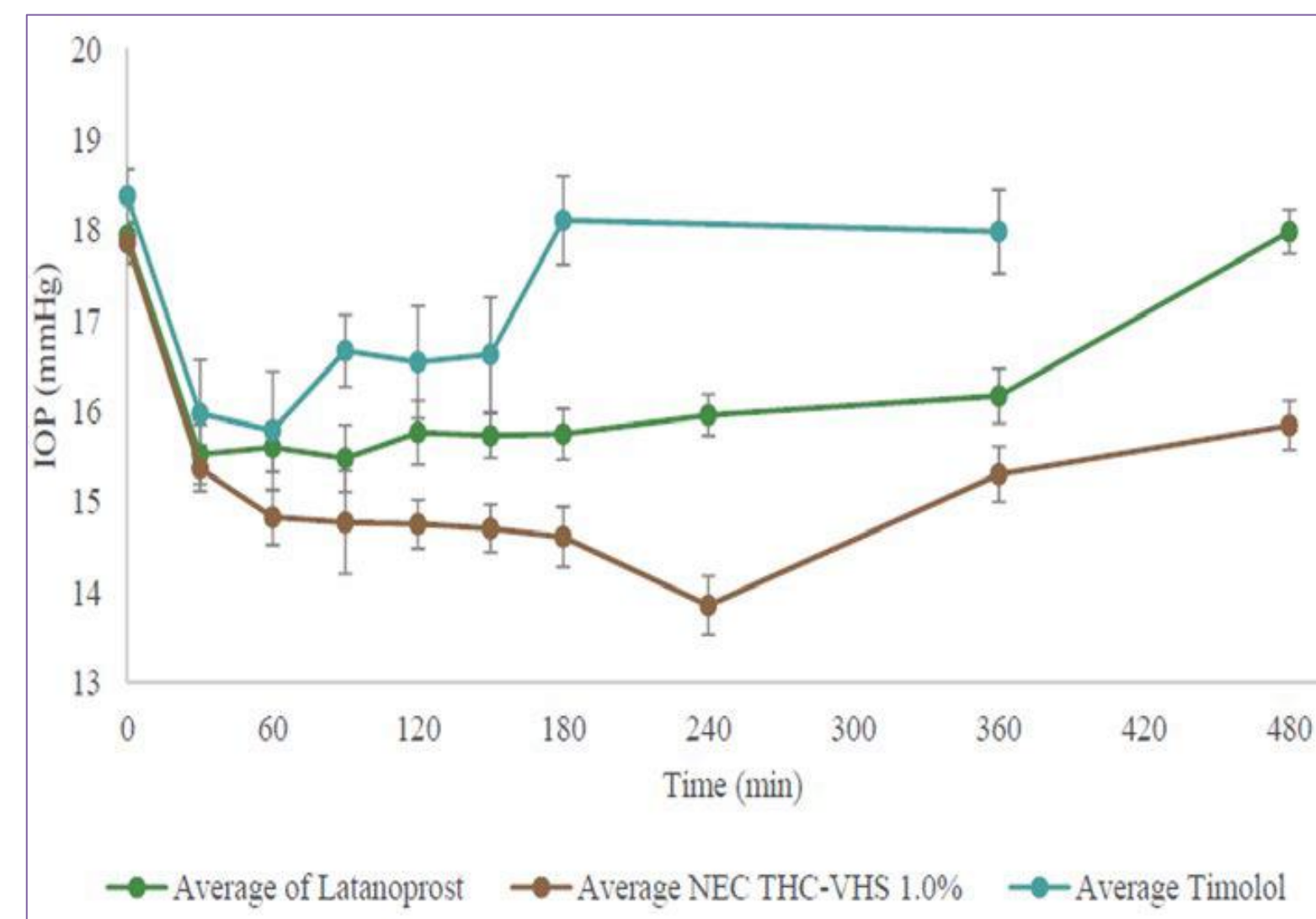


THCV  
HS

## THCVHS lowers IOP better than both market leaders

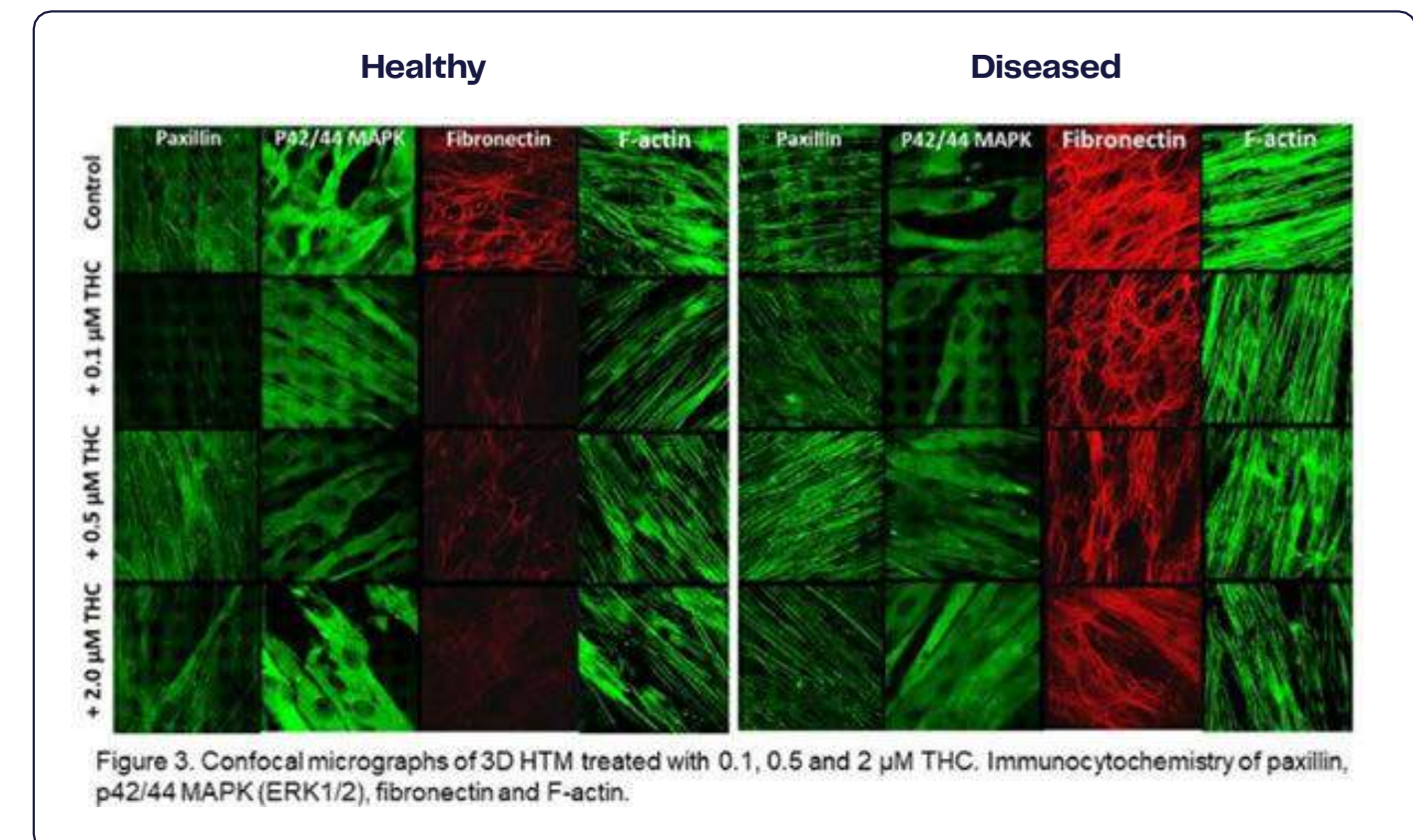
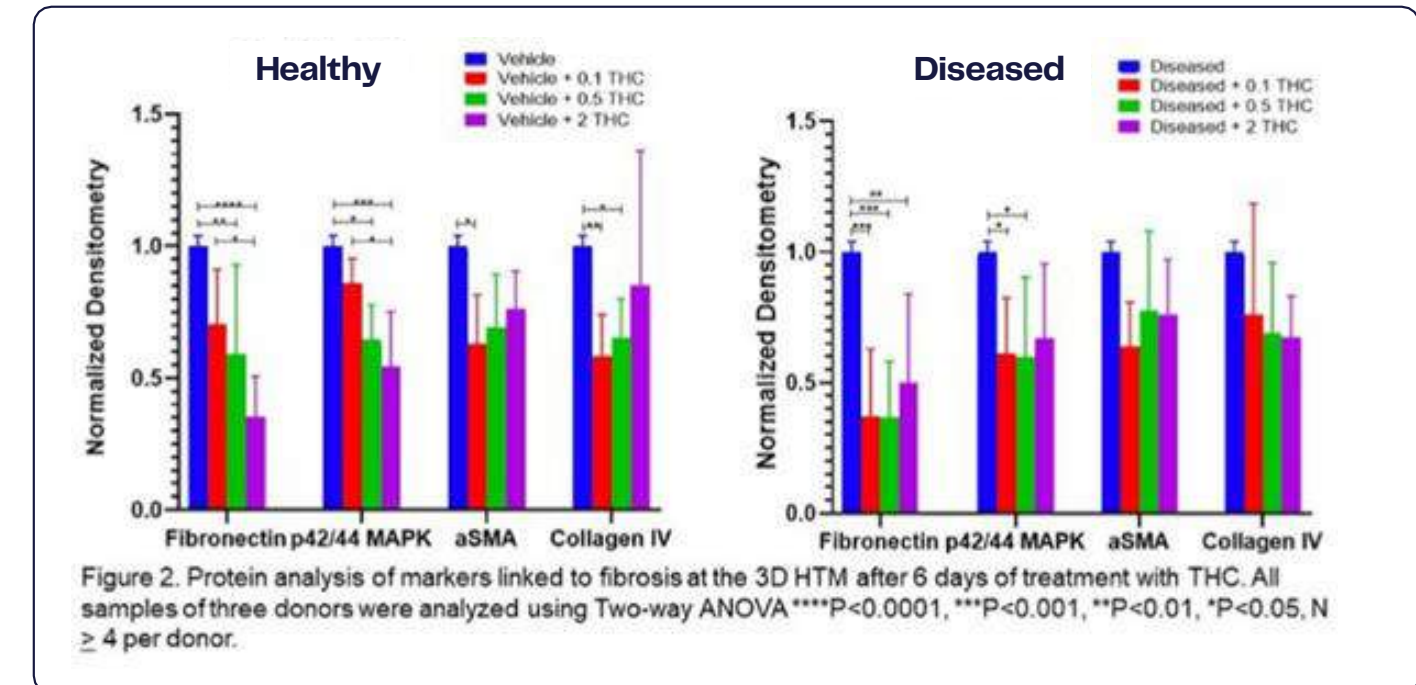
- In a rabbit model, THCVHS achieves superior decline in IOP versus latanoprost and timolol
- Superior duration of response
- Potential for once-daily dosing
- No detectable THC or metabolites outside the eye
- Additional head-to-head studies against and in combination with Rhopressa (netardusil) and latanoprost planned for 2Q-21 to further assess/validate IOP-lowering properties

Average IOP vs Time profile of Latanoprost (0.005%) vs THCVHS-NEC (1.0%) vs Timolol (0.25%)



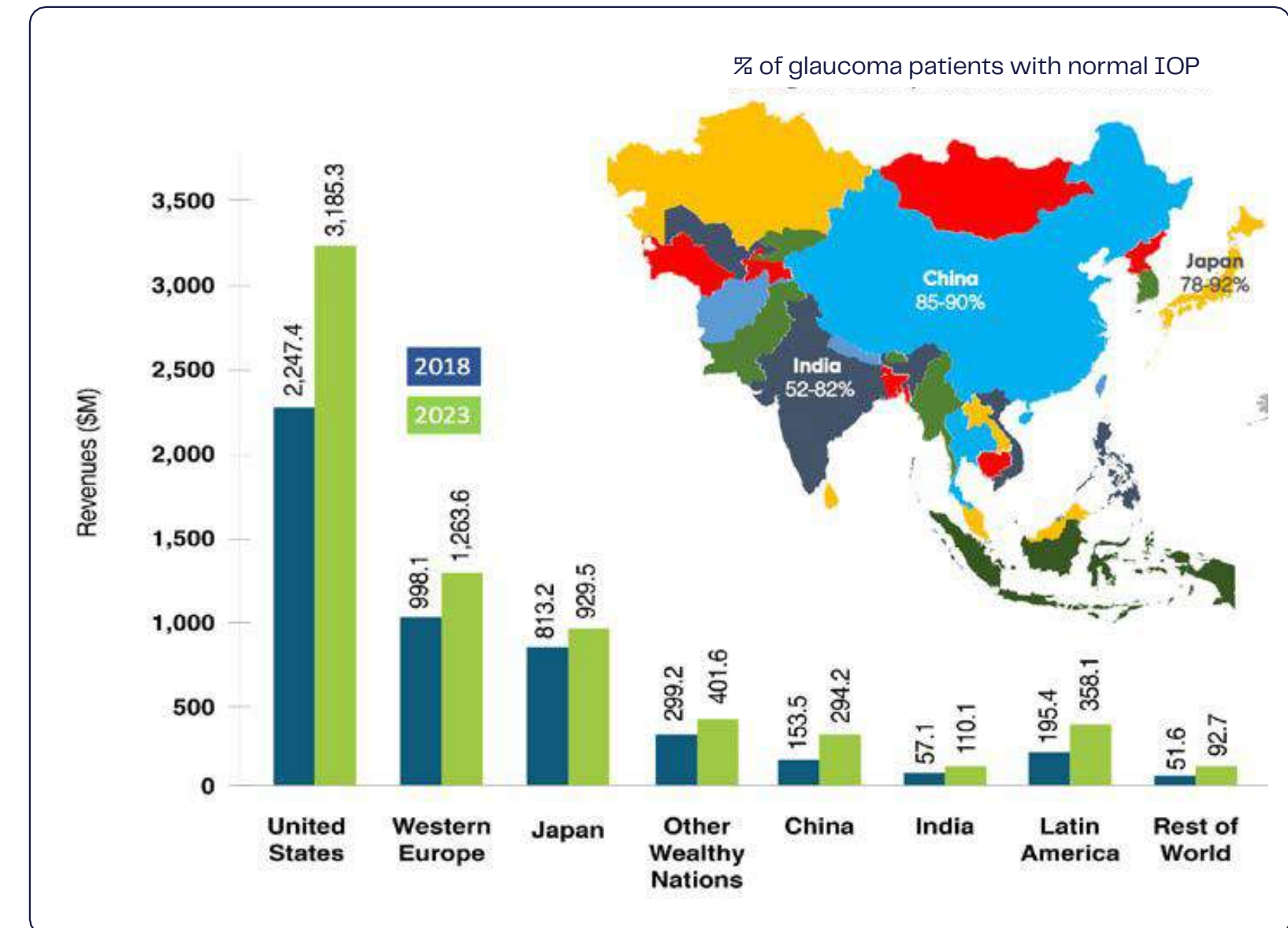
## Multi-factorial mechanism of action

- In an *ex vivo* model of human trabecular meshwork tissues (responsible for fluid drainage), THC significantly lowered pressure and increased drainage in both healthy and diseased tissue
- THC treatment also significantly reduced markers of fibrosis and inflammation, which are associated with glaucoma
- IOP-lowering capability of THC may be multi-factorial, including vasodilatory, anti-inflammatory, and anti-fibrotic responses
- Potentially a new class of glaucoma treatment with therapeutic attributes distinct from existing IOP-lowering drugs



## Not all glaucoma patients have elevated IOP

- Large proportion of glaucoma patients present with normal IOP, but still suffer progressive damage to optic nerve cells and vision loss
- Not clear what causes **neurodegeneration** of optic nerve in these patients
- A disproportionate number of patients have normal IOP levels in Asian countries
- Estimated that  $\geq 1/3$  of all glaucoma patients globally have normal IOP
- Significant unmet need and tremendous market opportunity for a neuroprotective drug



# Cannabinoids demonstrate neuroprotection

- Multiple studies in different animal species & models of glaucoma have demonstrated ability of cannabinoids to promote health and survival of optic nerve cells
- Optic nerve injury model in rats planned in Q2-21 to validate neuroprotection properties of THCVHS

Drug	Delivery	Study	Model	Neuroprotective effect versus vehicle (treatment versus control)
THC	IP	Crandall et al., 2007 [68]	Episcleral vein cauterization	~20–40% increase (10–20% loss)
THC	IV	El-Remessy et al., 2003 [69]	Intravitreal NMDA	~9% of vehicle*
CBD	IV	El-Remessy et al., 2003 [69]	Intravitreal NMDA	~4% of vehicle*
WIN 55,212-2	Topical	Pinar-Sueiro et al., 2013 [70]	Ischemia-reperfusion (high IOP)	9.88% increase (2.45% loss)
MetAEA	IVit	Nucci et al., 2007 [44]	Ischemia-reperfusion (high IOP)	18.6% increase (9.4% loss)
URB597	IP	Nucci et al., 2007 [44]	Ischemia-reperfusion (high IOP)	15.1% increase (12.9% loss)
URB597	IP	Slusar et al., 2013 [71]	Axotomy	1 week, 19.5% increase (27.9% loss) 2 weeks, 22.7% increase (58.9% loss)
Celecoxib	IP	Sakai et al., 2009 [72]	Ischemia-reperfusion (high IOP)	25.8% increase (39.1% loss)
SC-58236	IP	Ju et al., 2003 [45]	Ischemia-reperfusion (high IOP)	Central, 28.4% increase (27.3% loss) Peripheral, 28% increase (26.8% loss)

IP, intraperitoneal; IV, intravenous; IVit, intravitreal; \* study reported quantification of tunnel positive cells only.

Elizabeth A. Cairns, William H. Baldridge, Melanie E. M. Kelly, "The Endocannabinoid System as a Therapeutic Target in Glaucoma", *Neural Plasticity*, vol. 2016, Article ID 9364091, 10 pages, 2016. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2016/9364091>

# Phase 1 human clinical trial

## OBJECTIVES

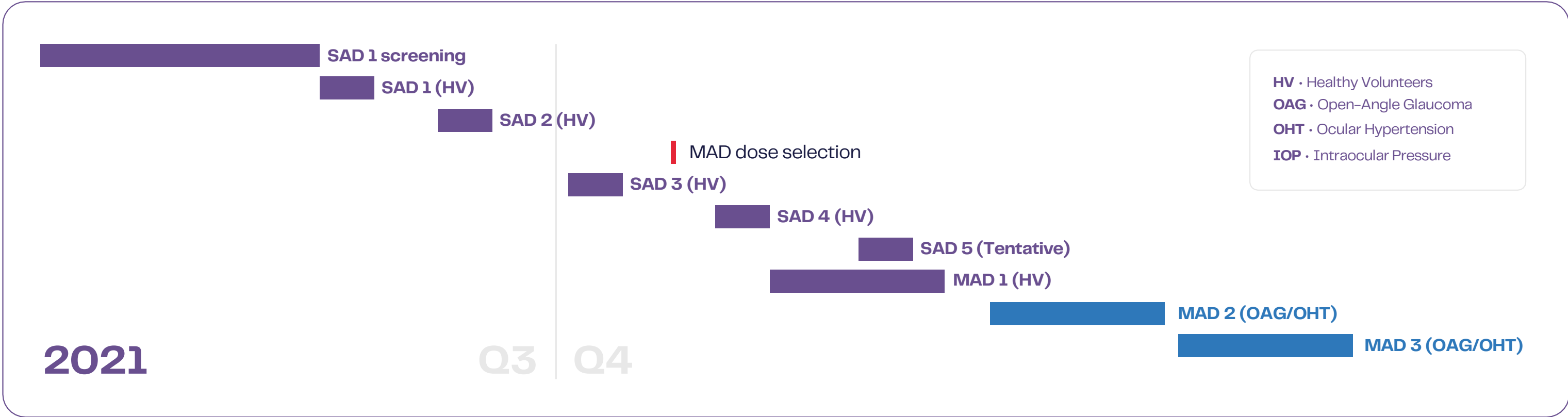
- Assess safety, tolerability, pharmacokinetics of single and multiple ascending doses in healthy subjects and subjects with elevated IOP
- Assessment of intraocular pressure

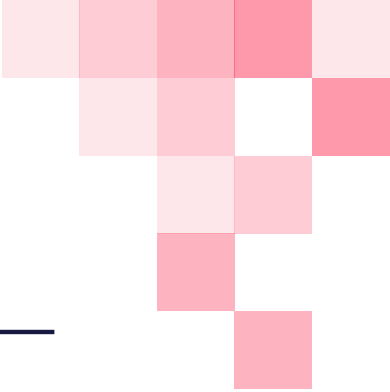
## STUDY DESIGN

- 64 subjects, double-blinded, 3:1 randomization
- 5 SAD cohorts, n=8, healthy subjects
- 3 MAD cohorts, n=8, healthy & elevated IOP subjects

## ELIGIBILITY

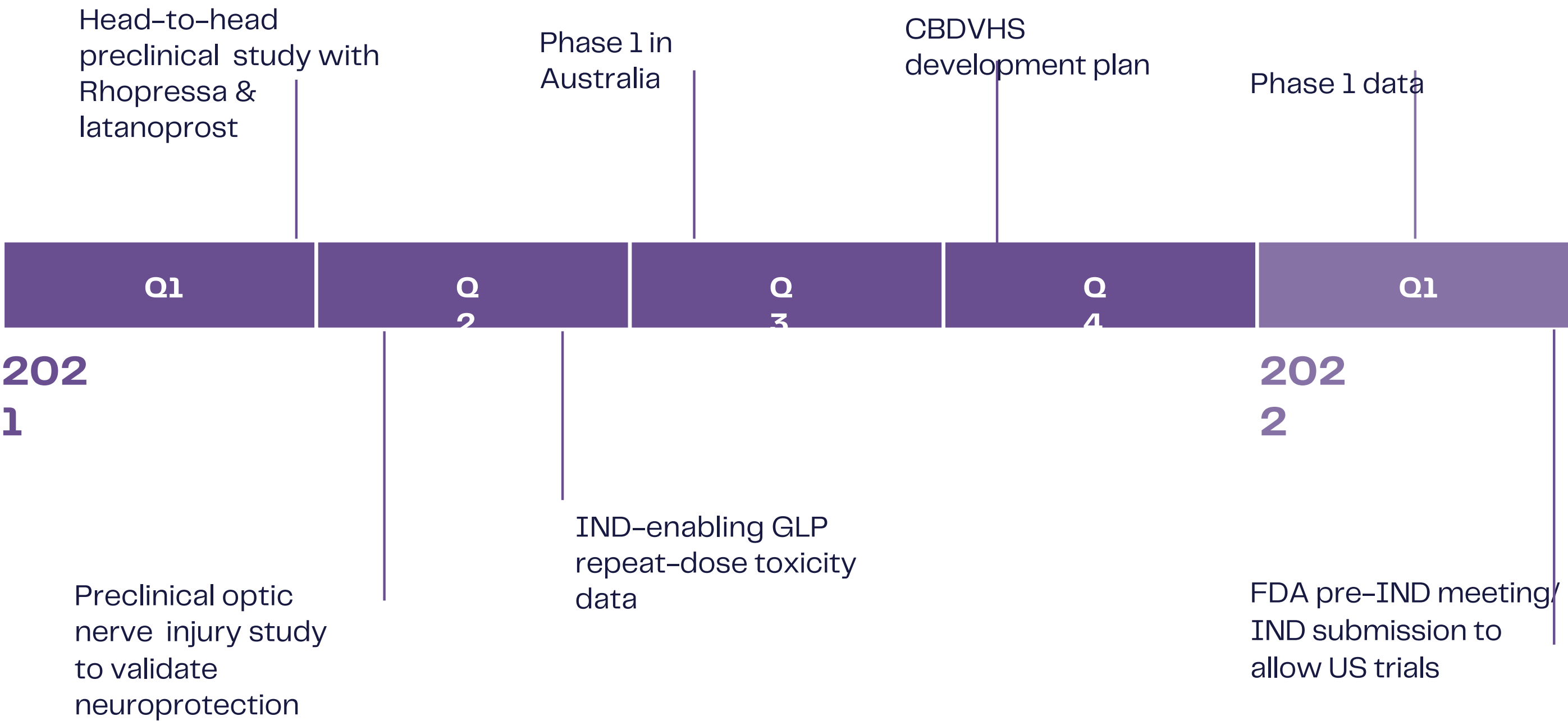
- Healthy cohorts: IOP  $\geq 12$  to  $\leq 22$  mmHg
- Elevated IOP cohorts: IOP  $\geq 18$  to  $\leq 26$  mmHg

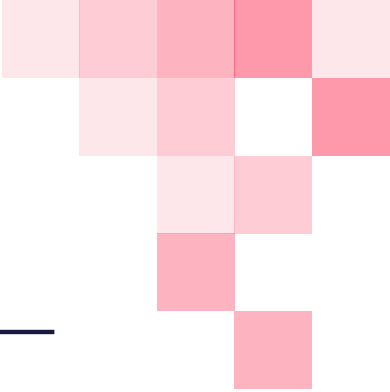




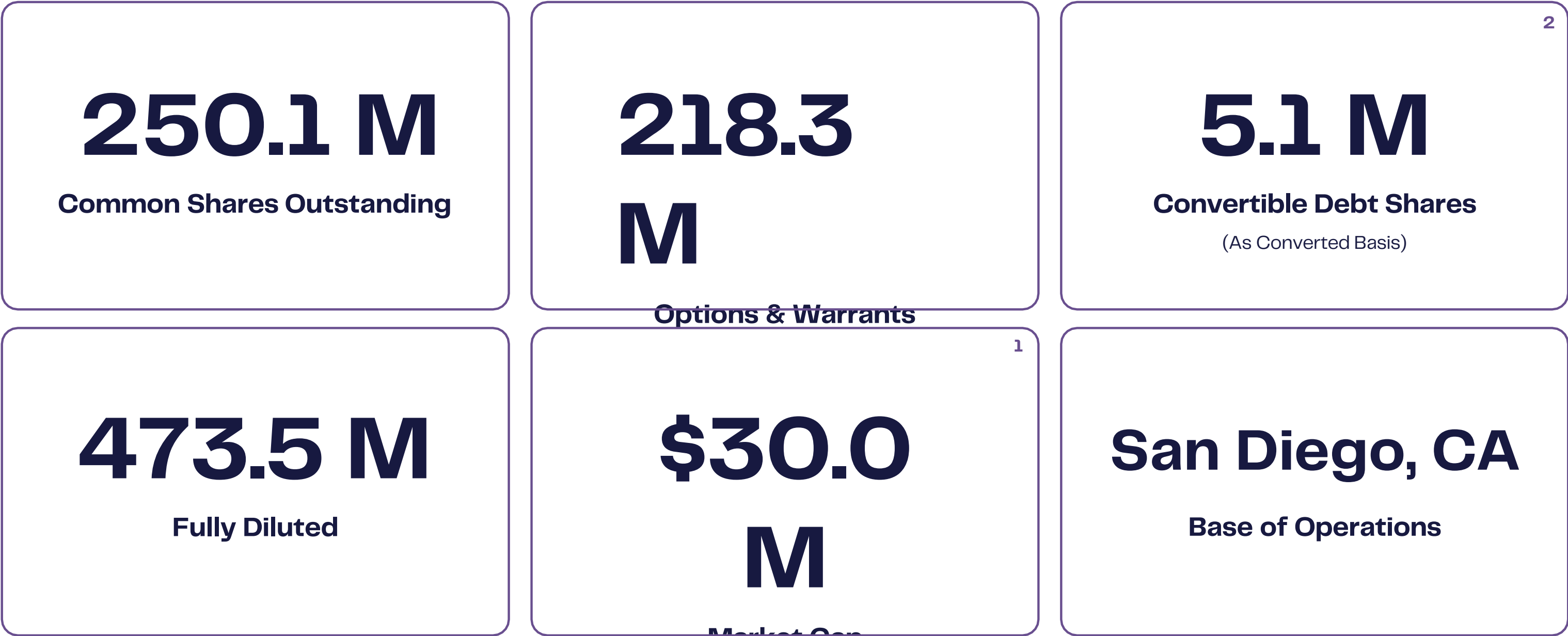
# Positioned for value creation

First human trial will be fast, low cost, and include assessment of intraocular pressure





# Capitalization



1 Based on 21/02/24 OTCQB closing price of \$0.12  
2 Based on \$2,014,500 of outstanding principal balance and accrued interest outstanding as of 20/03/25 on multi-draw credit facility which is convertible at \$.40 per share

# Management: Focused on delivering near-term data outcomes

## Punit Dhillon

Chief Executive Officer, Chair

- Co-founded and led OncoSec Medical, a cancer immunotherapy company, through early development and a partnership with Merck to launch Phase 2/3 multi-center trial; raised over \$200M
- VP Finance and Operations, Inovio Pharmaceuticals: helped raise more than \$160M

## Richard Janney

Principal Accounting Officer

- 30 years of business experience and served as a Vice President to CFO on multiple companies in a wide range of industries both public and private, domestic and international
- Previously operated consulting firm scaling start-ups to mid-size companies, offering financial services across an array of industries including software and medical devices

## Tu Diep, MSc

Sr Vice President, Development

- Senior leaderships positions at Element Biosciences, Emerald Health Science, OncoSec Medical and Protox Therapeutics
- Over 15 years experience in research, clinical and strategic operations, business process, CMC, regulatory affairs, and business development

## Karam Takhar

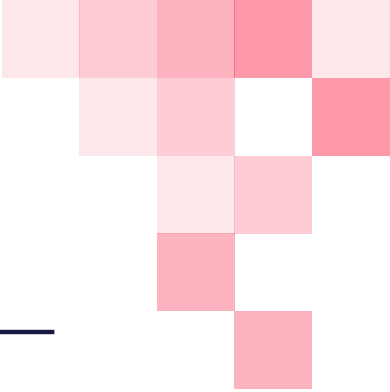
Vice President, Corporate Development & IR

- Life sciences executive with over 15 years experience in research, project management, operations, finance, business development, sales and investor relations
- Previously held with various leadership roles at Emerald Health Science, Promega Corporation and Stemcell Technologies

## Tom Kim, Esq

General Counsel & Director of IP

- Previously SVP and Corporate Secretary for Inovio Pharmaceuticals built global patent portfolio, led M&A transactions, closed license and partnering deals with large pharma
- Practiced law at large firms and Fortune 100 companies, e.g. Monsanto and DuPont. 20 years experience counseling biotech companies



# Scientific Advisors & Board Directors Offer Expert Guidance

Eminent experts in ophthalmology, research, and development applying their knowledge to Emerald’s mission

**Robert Ritch, MD**

Professor of Ophthalmology, Mt. Sinai

Shelley/Steven Einhorn Distinguished Chair and Surgeon Director Emeritus; head of glaucoma services and research at New York Eye & Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai, New York City

**Jeffery Goldberg, MD, PhD**

Professor of Ophthalmology, Stanford

Professor and Chair of Ophthalmology and Director of Spencer Center for Vision Research at Byers Eye Institute, Stanford University

**Louis Pasquale, MD**

Professor of Ophthalmology, Mt. Sinai

Professor Ophthalmology, Icahn School of Medicine, Mt. Sinai, New York City; Site Chair, Department of Ophthalmology, Mt. Sinai Hospital; Vice Chair of Translational Ophthalmology Research, Mount Sinai Healthcare System

**Eduardo Muñoz, MD, PhD**

Professor of Immunology, University of Córdoba

Expert in mechanisms of action of cannabinoids and endocannabinoids as well as development of cannabinoid- based new chemical entities

**Punit Dhillon**

Chair & CEO

Former co-founder, CEO, and director of OncoSec Medical. Experienced in finance, M&A, licensing, strategy implementation, and collaborations with industry and academic partners

**James Heppell, Esq**

Director

Former founder, CEO, director of BC Advantage Life Sciences venture fund. Director of multiple life science companies. Extensive experience in corporate finance law

**Margaret Delsandro, PhD**

Director

25+ years drug development experience in pharmaceutical, biotechnology and diagnostics industries. Currently President of Brecon Pharma Consulting

## Unique competitive position



Demonstrated greater IOP lowering than market-leading glaucoma therapeutics

Potential neuroprotection capabilities would be a game

changer

Key preclinical data (IOP/neuroprotection) in Q2-2021

First clinical trial: fast; low-cost; will include assessment of intraocular

pressure



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