

# Finding New Ground Between Safety & Efficacy in Drug Development

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**Unlocking New Therapeutic Possibilities** 

## Regulatory Approved JAK Inhibitors Are Encumbered by Lab Monitoring and Safety Concerns





Goal to achieve impactful efficacy and avoid mechanisms known to drive safety signals to reduce clinical monitoring

## Pharmacological Inhibition of the JAK Family Has Potential **Broad Biological Consequences**



Biochemical IC <sub>50</sub> at 1mM ATP							
		JAK1	JAK2	JAK3	TYK2	Reference	Selectivity relative to primary
	Tofacitinib (pan JAK)	15 nM	77 nM	55 nM	489 nM	Clark et al., 2014	JAK family member:
	Upadacitinib (JAK1)	47 nM	120 nM	2,304 nM	4,690 nM	Clark et al., 2014	>30X 10-30X <10X
JAK Inhibitors	Abrocitinib (JAK1)	29 nM	803 nM	>15,000 nM	1,250 nM	Vazquez et al., 2018	
	Ruxolitinib (JAK1/2)	3.3 nM	2.8 nM	428 nM	19 nM	Covington et al., 2020	
	Baricitinib (JAK1/2)	5.9 nM	5.7 nM	>400 nM	53 nM	Covington et al., 2020	
TYK2 Inhibitor	Deucravacitinib	>10,000 nM	>10,000 nM	>10,000 nM	0.2 nM	Wrobleski et al., 2019	



Adapted from Morris et al., Protein Sci. 2018 Dec;27(12):1984-2009.

## Unlocking Previously Intractable SH2 Domains of High Value Targets in Inflammatory Diseases and Cancer





## SH2 Domains Have Previously Been Deemed "Undruggable"



- Small protein modules made up of ~100 amino acids
- 120 human SH2 domains
- Play a key role in regulating the location and activity of proteins and in cellular signal transduction
- Mediate protein-protein interactions by binding to phospho-tyrosine containing motifs



Recludix

Pharma

## Significant Opportunity in Targeting SH2 Domain Proteins



### Initially Focused on STAT3, STAT6 and 3 Additional Targets



## **1. STAT Transcription Factors**

- Strong biological validation for STAT3 and STAT6
- Downstream in the JAK/STAT pathway; selective STAT inhibitors likely to be more targeted with fewer side effects

## 2. Undisclosed

• Plays a central role in both cancer and autoimmune diseases

## 3. Future - Remaining SH2 Domain Family Members

• Additional compelling targets enable a sustainable pipeline

## Selective STAT3 Inhibition Targets Key Inflammatory Cytokines and Downstream Th17 Pathogenesis



#### JAK/TYK2 inhibitors impact mechanisms important for viral immunity and hematologic homeostasis





# **Recludix Has Identified Multiple Highly Potent and Selective STAT3 Inhibitors**



	in vivo i.p. tool	orally bioavailable compounds	
	REX-4019	REX-5376	REX-7117
Biochemical Potency (SH2scan K <sub>D</sub> )	0.28 nM	0.15 nM	0.16 nM
<b>Cellular Potency</b> (pSTAT3 IC <sub>50</sub> in human PBMCs)	5.1 nM	0.72 nM	1.2 nM
Biochemical STAT Family Selectivity	~15X vs. STAT1 >300X vs. STAT2/4/5/6	~2X vs. STAT1 >150X vs. STAT2/4/5/6	~20X vs. STAT1 >500X vs. STAT2/4/5/6
Cellular Selectivity (PBMCs)	>10X vs. STAT1 >100X vs. STAT2/4/5/6	~2X vs. STAT1 ~20X vs. STAT2 >300X vs. STAT4/5/6	~20X vs. STAT1 >500X vs. STAT2/4/5/6
SH2 Domain Selectivity			

## STAT3 Inhibition Impairs the Th17 Phenotype and Differentiates From JAK/TYK2 Inhibitors in Functional T Cell Assays



• Primary human T cells cultured under Thelper (Th) skewing conditions in the presence of compounds

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		General Adaptive Immune response	Defense against viruses and bacteria	Defense against extracellular pathogens	Defense against parasites and mediation of antibody responses
		T Cell Activation (CD25)	Th1 Cell Function (IFNγ)	Th17 Cell Function (IL-17A)	Th2 Cell Function (IL-5)
	<b>REX-4019</b>	>10,000 nM	>2,000 nM	48 nM	>3,000 nM
STAT3 Inhibitors	<b>REX-5376</b>	>10,000 nM	>2,000 nM	11 nM	>3,000 nM
	<b>REX-7117</b>	>10,000 nM	>2,000 nM	14 nM	>3,000 nM
TYK2 Inhibitor	Deucravacitinib	>3,000 nM	260 nM	34 nM	~3,300 nM
	Tofacitinib	340 nM	74 nM	20 nM	20 nM
JAK Inhibitors	Upadacitinib	39 nM	36 nM	8 nM	4.4 nM
	Baricitinib	110 nM	210 nM	15 nM	15 nM
		Selectivity relati	ve to Th17 inhibition	: >30X 10	-30X <10X

#### T cell function assays (IC<sub>50</sub>)

## **Proof-of-Concept That Reversible Small Molecule STAT3** Inhibition Modulates In Vivo Th17 Disease



- Initial published characterization of Th17 cells was in the mouse EAE model
- Conditional STAT3 knockout mice are completely resistant to EAE induction



REX-4019 is active in mouse experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE)

Chen et al., J Clin Invest. 2006 May;116(5):1317-26. Komiyama et al., J Immunol. 2006 Jul 1;177(1):566-73 Zhou et al., Bone. 2011;49:404

## **Prophylactic and Therapeutic Dose-Dependent Efficacy in the Th17-Dependent EAE Model**





30 10 30

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Vehicle

8

**REX-4019** 

(mg/kg, i.p.)





30-10

₫

8

**REX-4019** 

(mg/kg, i.p.)

#### Semi-Therapeutic

#### **Neurological symptoms**



#### Inflammation-induced cachexia



## **Recludix Oral STAT3 Compounds Characterized by Selective** and Sustained Target Inhibition



• Dog PBMCs evaluated for ex vivo pSTAT1/3 activity following single day oral dosing



## Recludix Compounds Provide Durable STAT3 Inhibition and Maintain In Vivo Selectivity Versus STAT1 After Multiple Doses



• Dog PBMCs evaluated for *ex vivo* pSTAT1/3 activity following multi-day oral dosing



Repeat oral dosing confirms that *in vivo* STAT3 selectivity is achievable against the closest off-target family member

# **Oral STAT3 Inhibition Significantly Reduces an IL-6 Dependent LPS-Induced Inflammation in Dogs**





- LPS challenge drives pSTAT3 activation, immune activation, and IL-6 dependent CRP production
- Oral REX-5376 inhibits endogenous pSTAT3 signaling and abrogates CRP induction



#### Oral STAT3 inhibition effectively impairs IL-6 mediated inflammatory responses

## **REX-7117 Is Efficacious After Oral Dosing in IL-23-Induced** Th17 Model of Psoriasis



- Rodent doses selected to mimic expected human pSTAT3 pharmacodynamic profile
- Once daily REX-7117 (300mg/kg) was superior to deucravacitinib clinically-relevant dose (1mg/kg)
- Twice daily REX-7117 (300mg/kg) was comparable to deucravacitinib at a supra-clinical dose (30mg/kg)



Orally targeting STAT3 provides significant inhibition of Th17 mediated skin inflammation

## **Selective STAT3 Inhibition Relatively Spares Interferon-Driven Anti-Viral Gene Transcription**



Benchmarking selective STAT3 inhibition to clinically relevant JAK/TYK2 therapies using interferon (IFN) response gene ٠ in primary human monocytes



Selectivity relative to monocyte CD163 inhibition:

Targeting STAT3 will reduce the impact on IFN-dependent innate immunity

## Targeting STAT3 Differentiates From Clinically Relevant JAK Inhibitors on pSTAT5 Mediated Signaling



• Profiling compounds on Erythropoietin (EPO) or Thrombopoietin (TPO) mediated pSTAT5 signaling in reporter cell lines



		STAT3-driven Inflammation	Erythropoiesis	Thrombopoiesis	
		IL-6 STAT3 in PBMCs	EPO-Induced STAT5-Driven Transcription	TPO-Induced STAT5-Driven Transcription	
	<b>REX-4019</b>	5.1 nM	>10,000 nM	>10,000 nM	
STAT3 Inhibitors	<b>REX-5376</b>	5.6 nM	>10,000 nM	>10,000 nM	
	<b>REX-7117</b>	0.9 nM	>10,000 nM	>10,000 nM	
TYK2 Inhibitor	Deucravacitinib	140 nM	3,200 nM	250 nM	
	Tofacitinib	110 nM	340 nM	200 nM	
JAK Inhibitors	Upadacitinib	48 nM	69 nM	20 nM	
	Baricitinib	28 nM	55 nM	46 nM	
Selectivity relative to PBMC pSTAT3 inhibition: >30X 10-30X				0-30X <10X	

Targeting STAT3 is expected to avoid STAT5 signaling that is important for hematologic homeostasis

## **STAT3 Inhibition Has Potential Clinical Applications Across Multiple Inflammatory and Autoimmune Diseases**





Leveraging clinically validated mechanisms with selective STAT3 inhibition

## Recludix's Reversible, Oral, Small Molecule STAT Inhibitors Are Differentiated From Competitors



	Recludix's STAT Inhibitors	TYK2 Inhibitors	JAK Inhibitors	Biologics
Potent	+++	+++	+++	++++
Selective	++++	++	+	++++
Reversible	++++	++++	++++	+
Oral	++++	++++	++++	-
Indication Expansion Potential	++++	++	++++	++++

## Oral, Selective, STAT Inhibitors Offer Potential New Ground Between Safety & Efficacy in Drug Development



- Recludix has generated potent and selective small molecule STAT3 inhibitors for Th17 driven inflammation
- Exquisite STAT3 targeting has the potential for both efficacy and safety differentiation versus the JAK/TYK family
- STAT3 inhibition has potential clinical applications across Th17 driven diseases, including psoriasis, RA, IBD, and multiple oncology indications
- Integrated platform technologies facilitate drugging of previously 'undruggable' targets, including other STAT family members



## Thank you

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