

# XXI Encuentro de Cooperación Farma-Biotech

17 de noviembre de 2021

**LIM21, a treatment for retinitis pigmentosa (RP) and age-related macular degeneration (AMD)**



**Dr. Elena Puerta-Fernández, CEO**



MEDICAMENTOS INNOVADORES  
Plataforma Tecnológica Española



## Content

### 1. The Institution: Limnopharma

### 2. The Product: LIM21

- a) Target Indications
- b) Innovative mechanisms of action
- c) Differential features facing the market
- d) Current status of development
- e) IPR protection
- f) Pitfalls & Risks to be considered

### 3. Partnering Opportunities



Novel treatments for ocular diseases

Elena Puerta-Fernández, CEO

November 2021



New molecules

Mouse models



WO2018/096196

WO2018/100219



Founded 2019

# Team



**Dr. Elena Puerta**  
CEO



**Dr. Juan C. Morales**  
Sci. Advisor & Founder



**Dr. Francisco Díaz**  
Sci. Advisor & Founder



**Dr. Natalia Pérez**  
Founder



**Dr. David Alcántara**  
BD & Founder



# Team

5 PhD's (Chemistry, Biochemistry,  
Medical Sciences)



UNIVERSIDAD  
DE GRANADA



CSIC  
CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTÍFICAS

Universidad Autónoma  
de Madrid



Universidad de  
los Andes

95 years accumulated  
Research experience

UEA University of  
East Anglia

UNIVERSITY of  
ROCHESTER

OKAYAMA UNIVERSITY

HARVARD  
MEDICAL SCHOOL

Yale University

Stanford  
University



UNIVERSITÉ  
BORDEAUX  
SEGALEN

Freie Universität  
Berlin



UPPSALA  
UNIVERSITET

AIST  
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF  
ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL SCIENCE  
AND TECHNOLOGY (AIST)

25 years accumulated  
Business experience

ABENGOA

BIOSEARCH  
LIFE

SACESIS  
Sociedad para el Avance Científico

# Scientific Advisory Board



**Prof. Claudio Punzo**

- ✓ Professor of Ophthalmology **UMass Medical School**
- ✓ Animal models of retinal diseases
- ✓ **International expert in Retinitis Pigmentosa.**



**Prof. Shomi Bhattacharya**

- ✓ Emeritus Professor of Ophthalmology at **UCL**.
- ✓ Director of CABIMER from 2008 to 2016.
- ✓ **International expert in Retinitis Pigmentosa.**



**Dr. Francisco Gómez-Ulla**

- ✓ Founder and Director - **Gómez-Ulla Ophthalmological Institute.**
- ✓ Head of the Ophthalmology Hospital Universitario de Santiago.
- ✓ Over 40 years of **experience in macular degeneration.**



**Dr. Javier Galán**

- ✓ Director Pharmaceutical Development at **Avizorex**.
- ✓ 20 years at Alcon as Director Pharm. Dev.
- ✓ Expert in **Ophthalmic Drug Delivery Technologies.**



**Dr. Diego del Río**

- ✓ Director of Strategic Planning & Business Analytics at **Grifols**.
- ✓ MBA in General Management UC Berkeley
- ✓ Expert in **Business Development**

# Awards



Avenir Matmut Start-Up Prize  
Awarded 2019



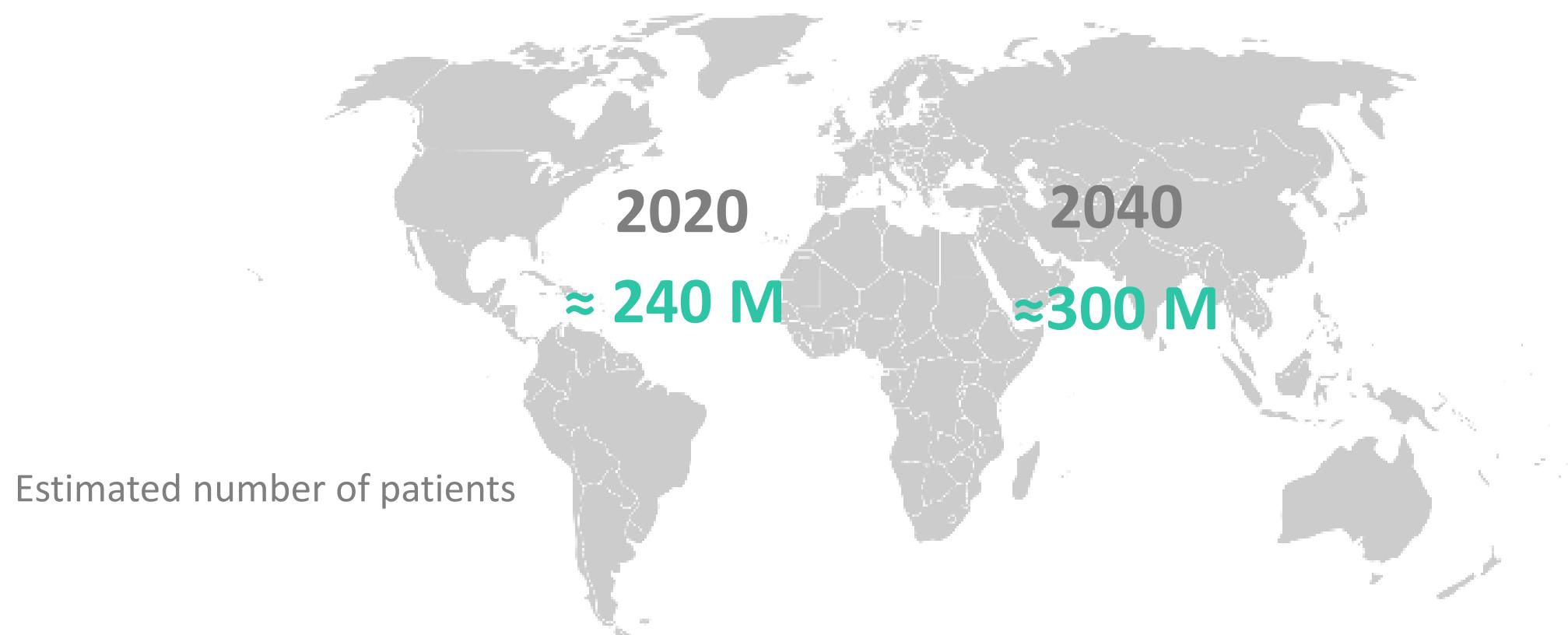
Premio Everis España  
Finalist 2020  
(Top 5 out of 700 companies)



Startup Andalucía Roadshow  
Awarded 2021

## 2.a. Target indications

Retinal degenerative diseases leading to blindness



# Retinitis Pigmentosa, a rare disease

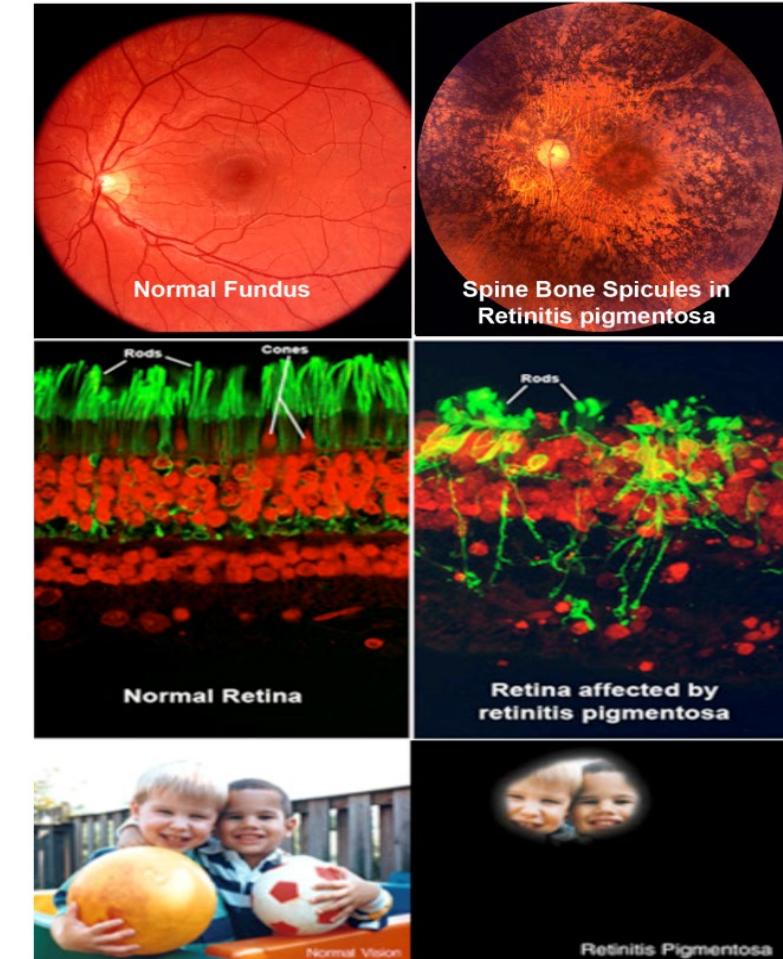
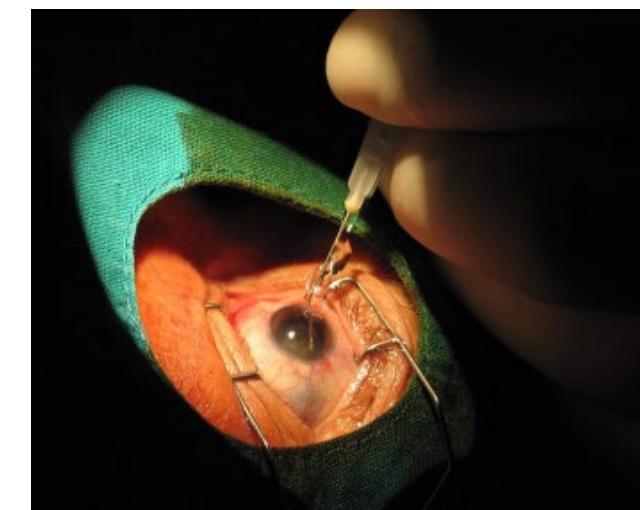


Figure 1. RP characteristics and visual impact

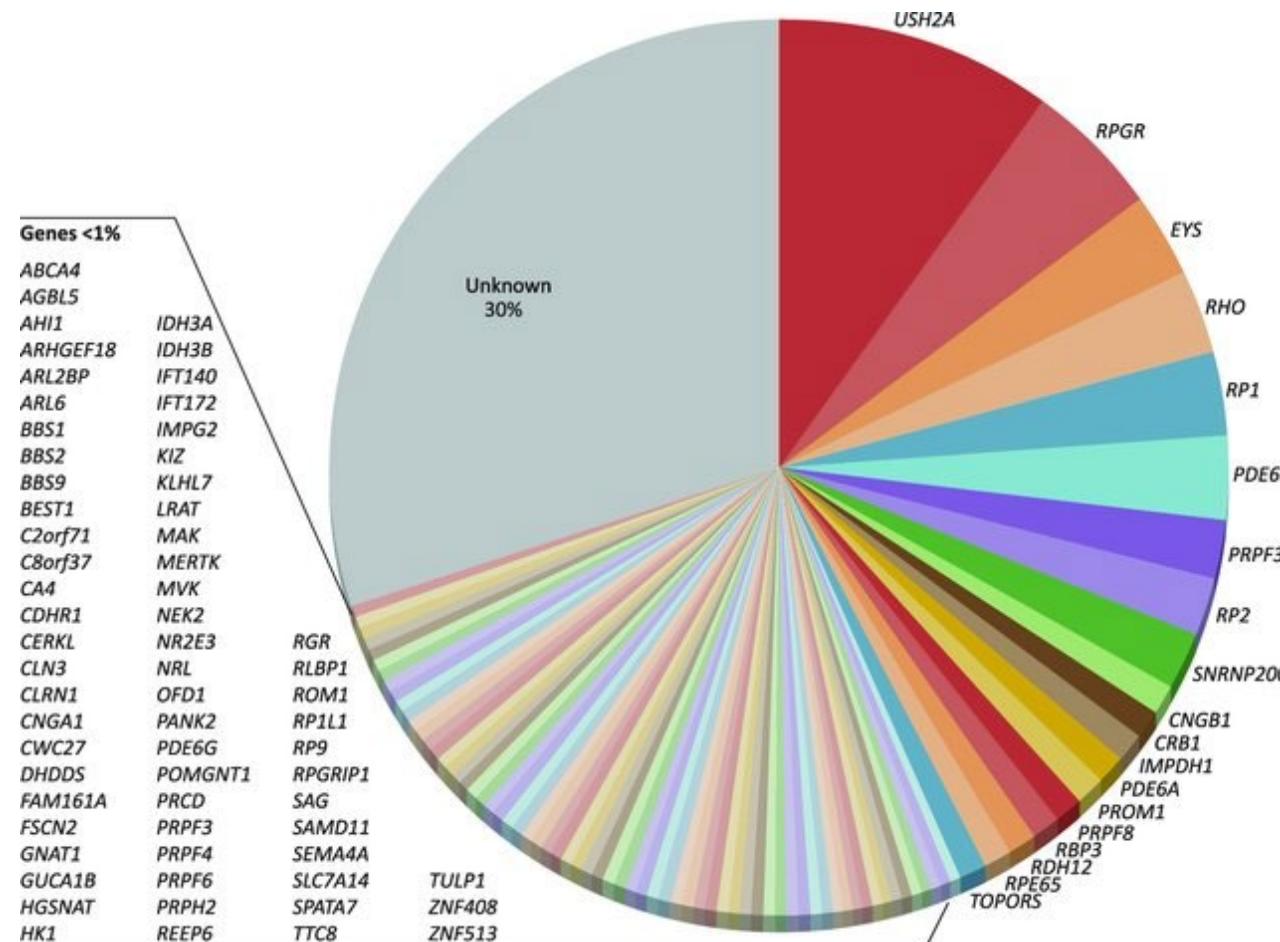
# Current treatment

The only available treatment:

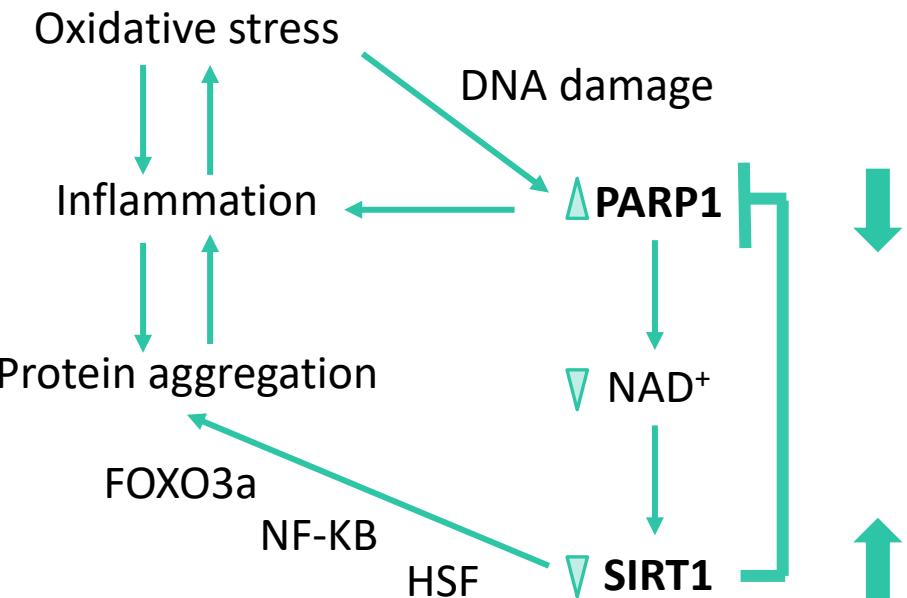
- Only for RPE65 (more than 80 genes)
- 98% of patients without treatment
- Treatment cost: \$425.000/eye
- Subretinal injection (surgery room)



# Retinitis Pigmentosa



## *Estimated relative contribution of genes to non-syndromic retinitis pigmentosa. (Verbakel, et al. 2018)*



Arango-Gonzalez B, et al. PLoS One. 2014 Nov 13;9(11):e112142.

# SIRT1 as a therapeutic target

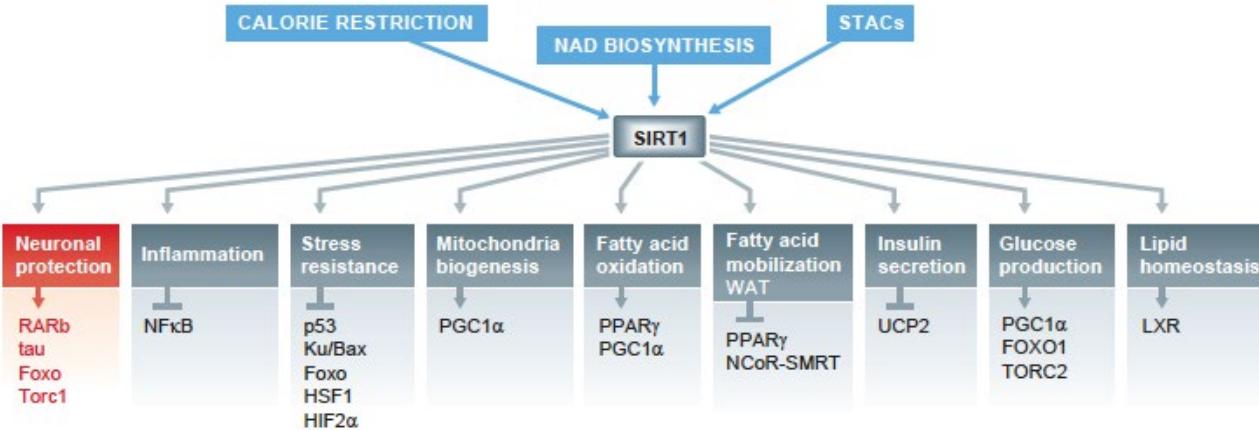
## Sirtuins Expression and Their Role in Retinal Diseases

Sankarathi Balaiya,<sup>1,2</sup> Khaled K. Abu-Amro,<sup>1,3</sup> Altaf A. Kondkar,<sup>3</sup> and Kakarla V. Chalam<sup>1</sup>

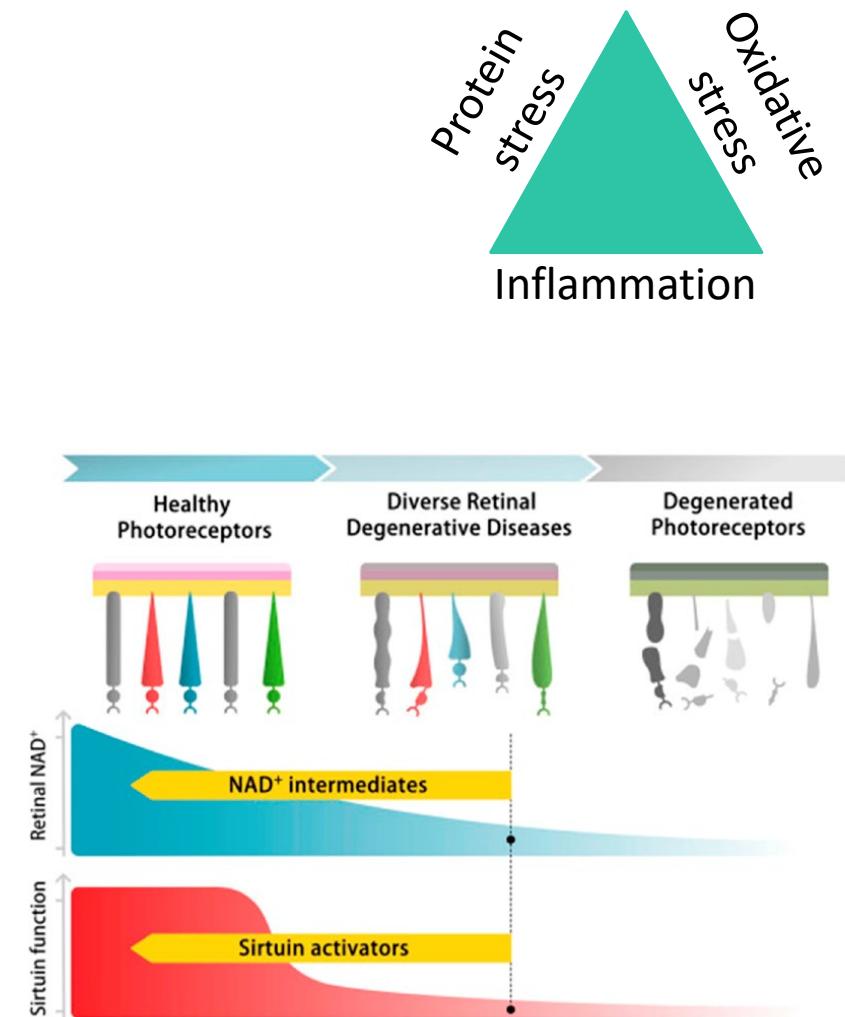
Oxidative Medicine and Cellular Longevity 2017:3187594

## NAD<sup>+</sup> and sirtuins in retinal degenerative diseases: a look at future therapies

Jonathan B. Lin<sup>1,2</sup> and Rajendra S. Apte<sup>1,2,3,4,\*</sup> Prog Retin Eye Res. 2018 November ; 67: 118–129..



Donmez, Outeriro, EMBO Mol Med, 2013 Mar;5(3):344-52



# PARP-1 inhibition

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## Excessive Activation of Poly(ADP-Ribose) Polymerase Contributes to Inherited Photoreceptor Degeneration in the Retinal Degeneration 1 Mouse

François Paquet-Durand,<sup>1,\*</sup> José Silva,<sup>1,\*</sup> Tanuja Talukdar,<sup>1</sup> Leif E. Johnson,<sup>1</sup> Seifollah Azadi,<sup>1</sup> Theo van Veen,<sup>1</sup> Marius Ueffing,<sup>2,3</sup> Stefanie M. Hauck,<sup>2</sup> and Per A. R. Ekström<sup>1</sup>

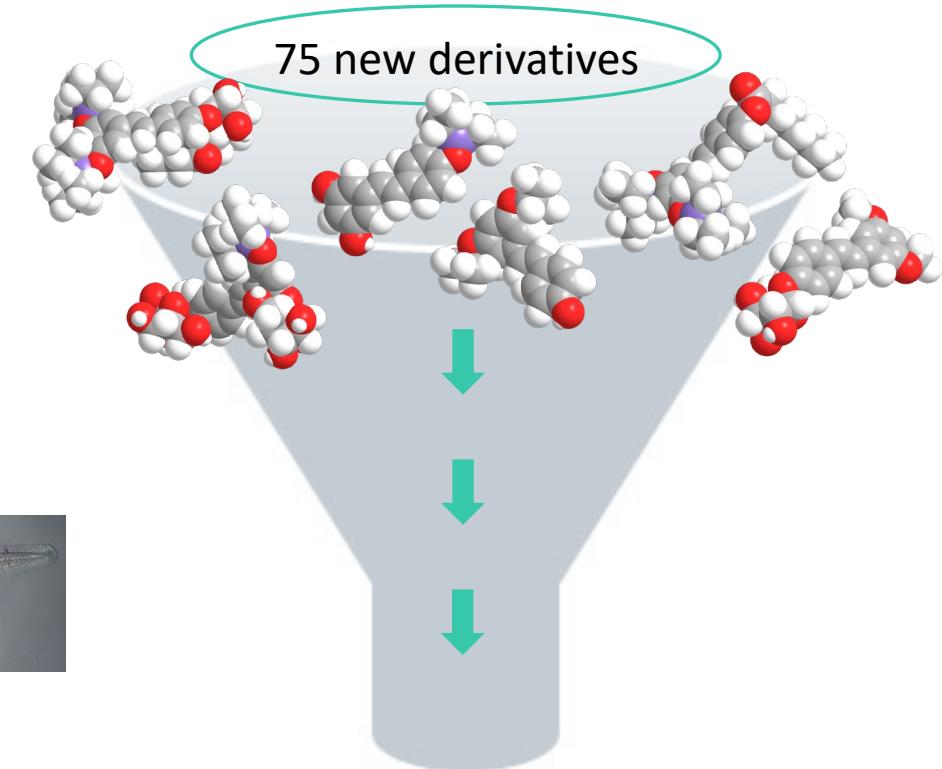
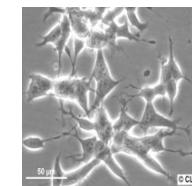
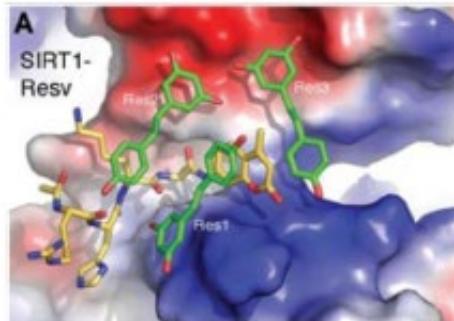
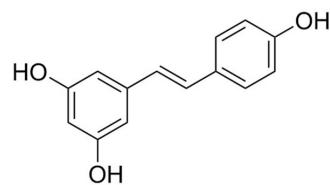
The Journal of Neuroscience, September 19, 2007 • 27(38):10311–10319 • 10311

**Olaparib significantly delays  
photoreceptor loss in a model for  
hereditary retinal degeneration**

Ayse Sahaboglu<sup>1,\*</sup>, Melanie Barth<sup>1,2,\*</sup>, Enver Secer<sup>1,3</sup>, Eva M. del Amo<sup>4</sup>, Arto Urtti<sup>4,5</sup>,  
Yvan Arsenijevic<sup>6</sup>, Eberhart Zrenner<sup>1</sup> & François Paquet-Durand<sup>1</sup>

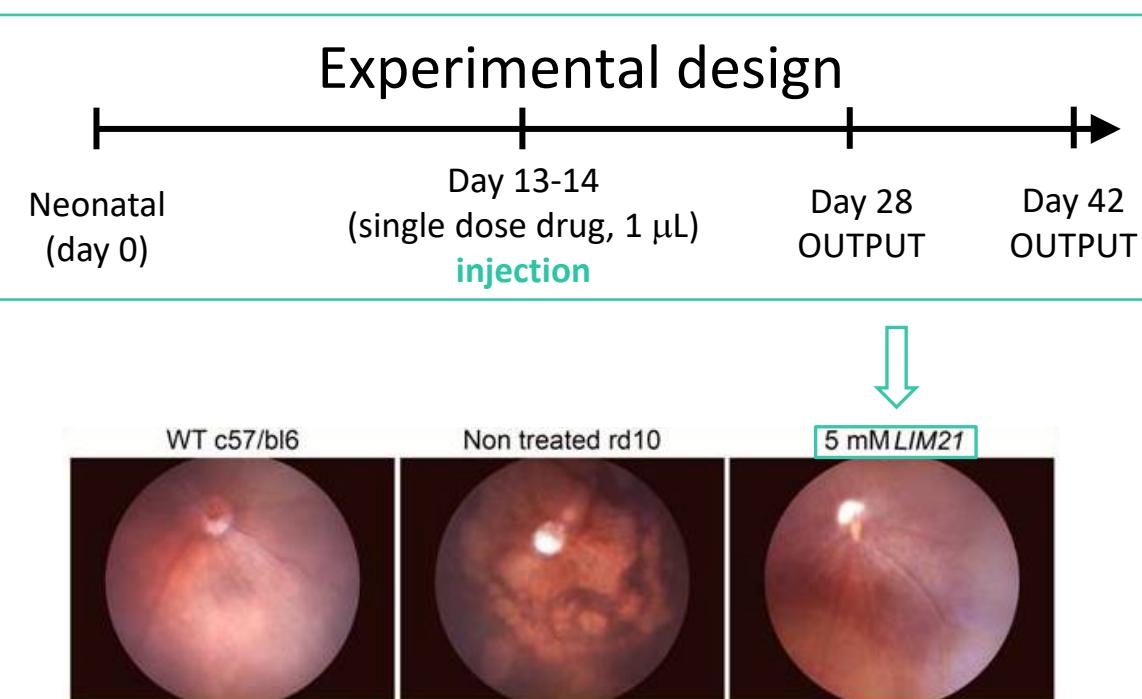
SCIENTIFIC REPORTS | 6:39537 | DOI: 10.1038/srep39537

# Our approach

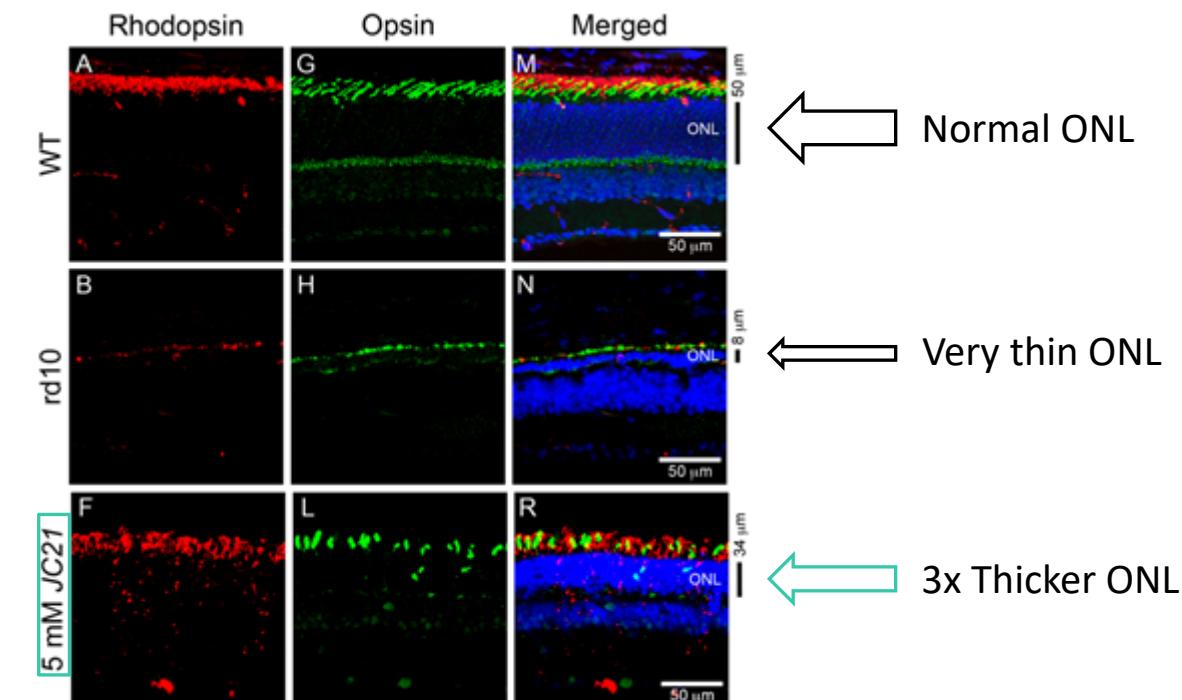


- Natural product as HIT
- Rational design of derivatives & chemical synthesis

# rd10 mice assays

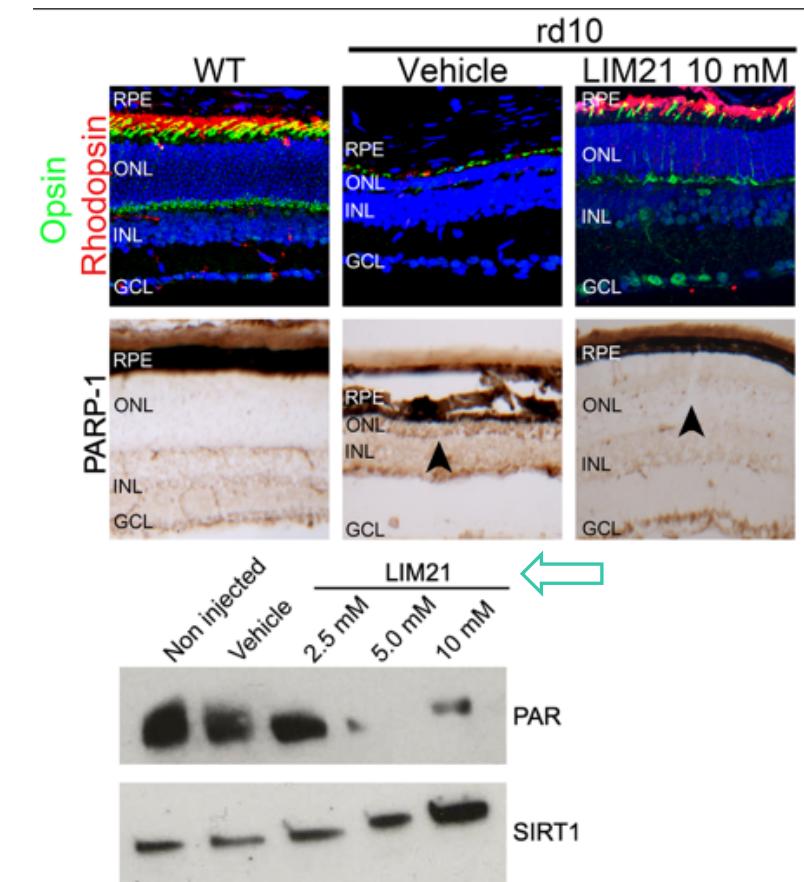
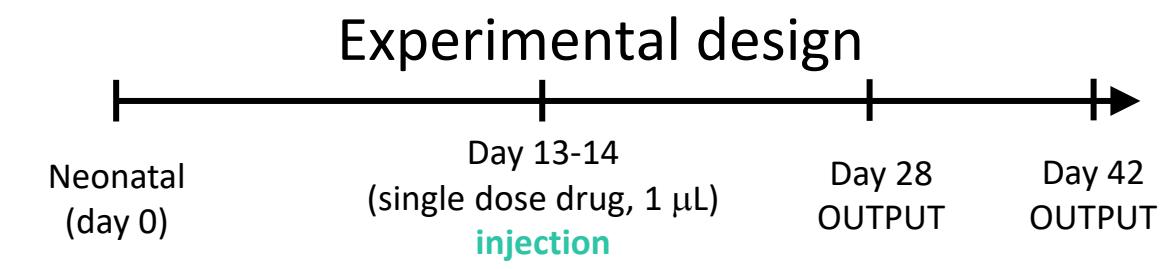


Fundus of rd10 mice retina displayed less amount of bone spicule pigments in the LIM21 treated group



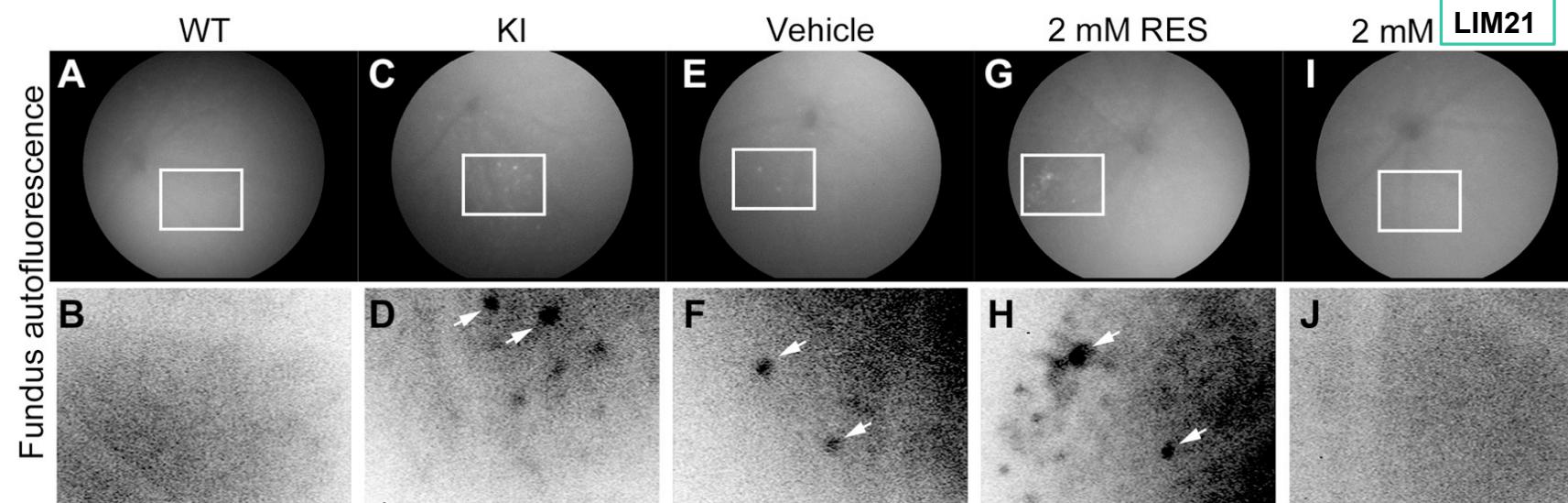
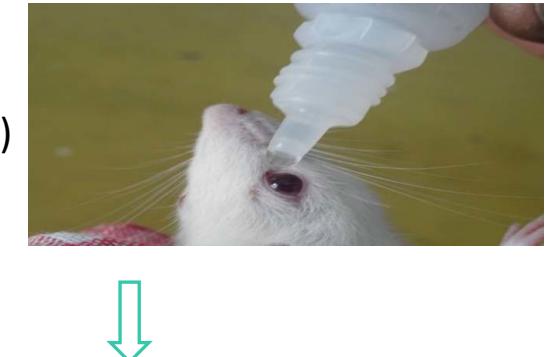
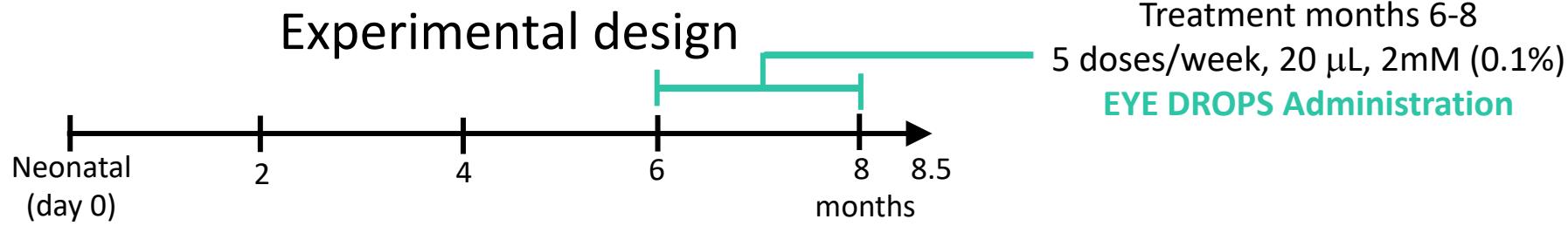
Immunostaining of rd10 mice retina showed thicker retinas and preservation of rhodopsin and opsin signal in the LIM21 treated group

## 2b. Innovative Mode of Action: PARP-1 inhibition Sirt1 activation



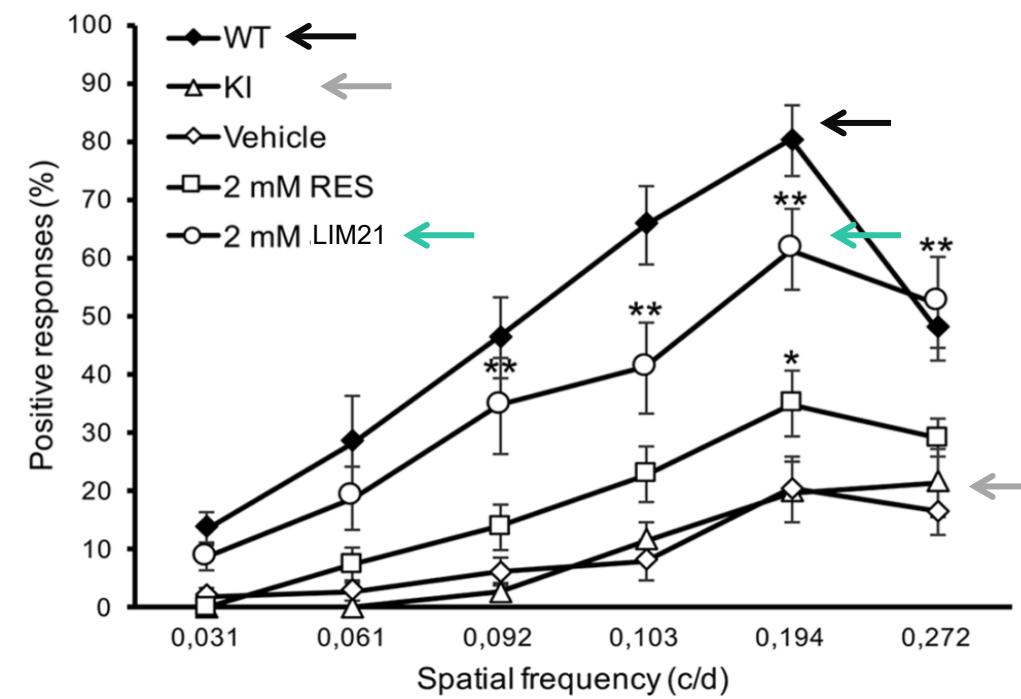
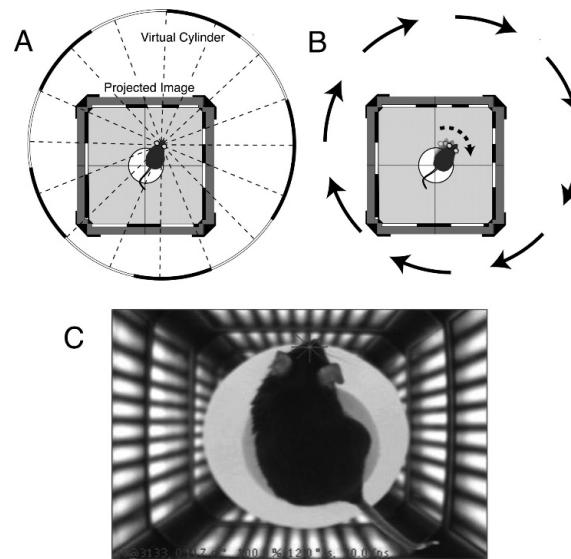
**Figure 4:** Immunostaining of rd10 mouse retinas treated with LIM21 showing Rhodopsin, Opsin and PARP-1 expression. Western blotting of SIRT1 and PAR polymers.

# prpf31 mice assay



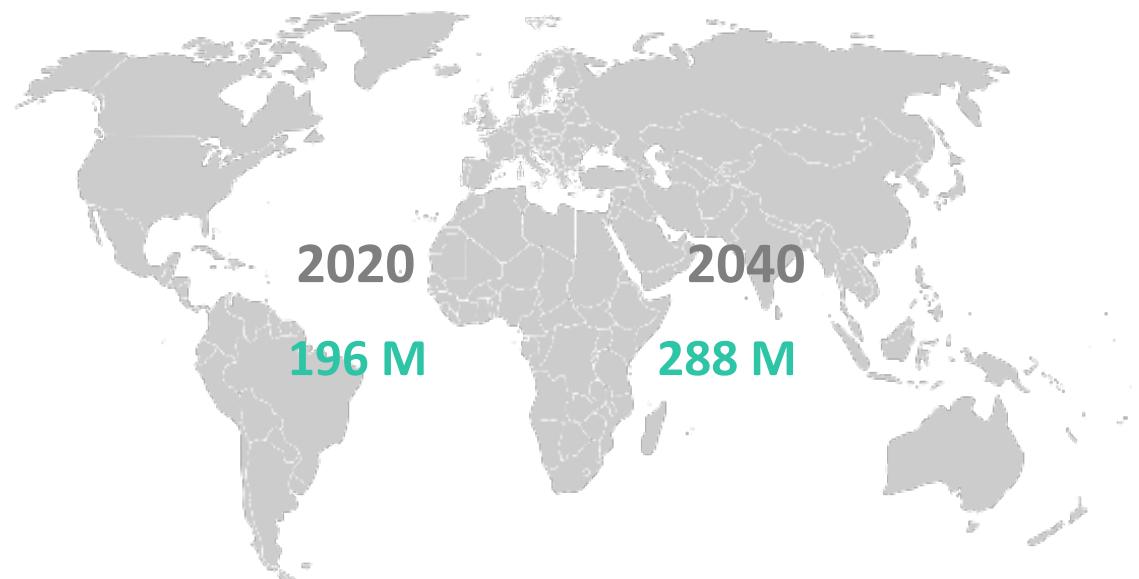
Fundus of Prpf31 mice retina

# prpf31 mice assay

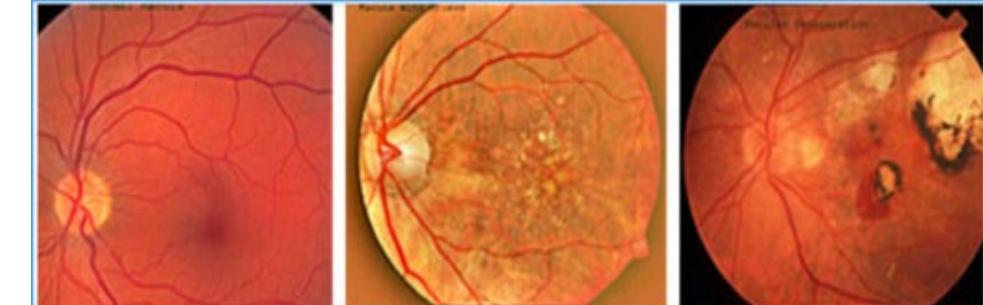


Left: optomotor test. Right: Representation of visual acuity

# Age related macular disease



Disease Prevalence



A healthy retina.

A retina showing "dry" macular degeneration with deposits, called drusen.

"Wet" macular degeneration revealing scarring and hemorrhaging on the retina.



HEALTHY EYE CONDITION

EARLY AMD

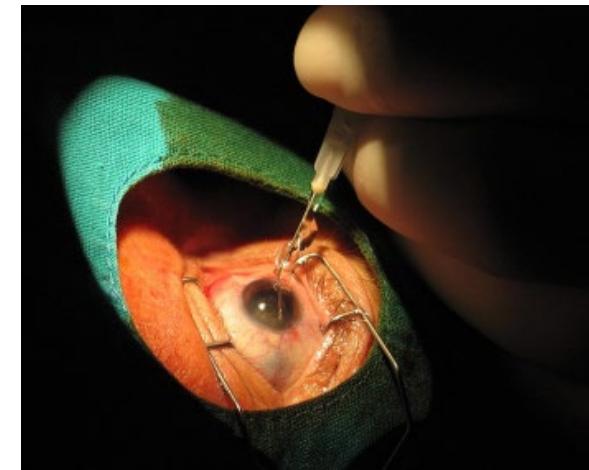
LATE AMD

**Dry AMD, 90 %**

**Wet AMD 10 %** (in the majority leads to blindness)

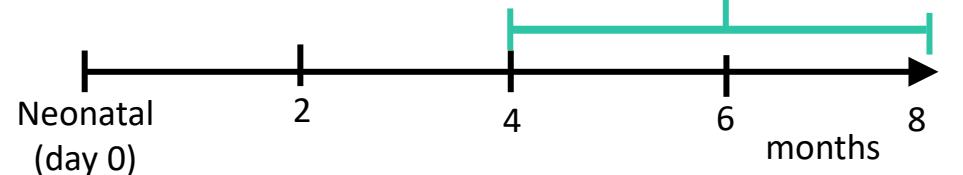
# Treatments available

- Wet AMD Treatment cost: 12.000€/year
- Dry AMD: No treatment

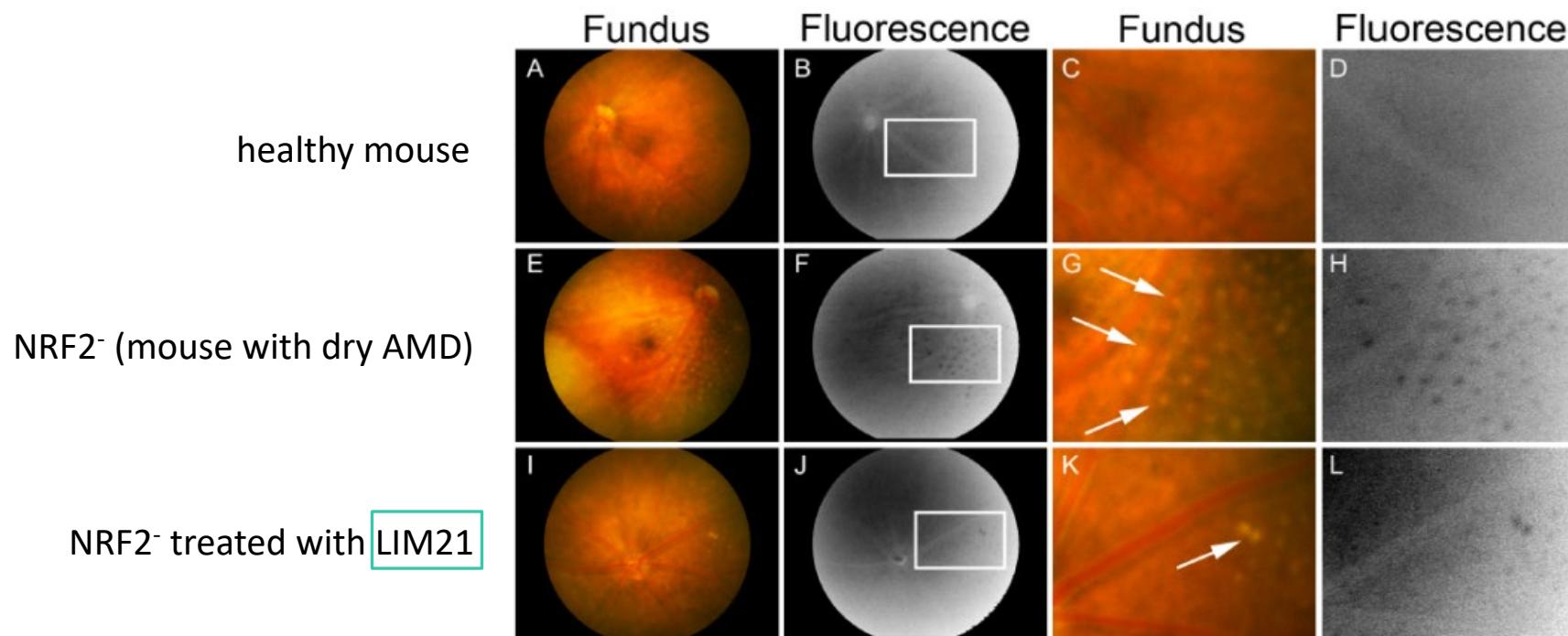


# NRF2<sup>-/-</sup> mice assay

## Experimental design



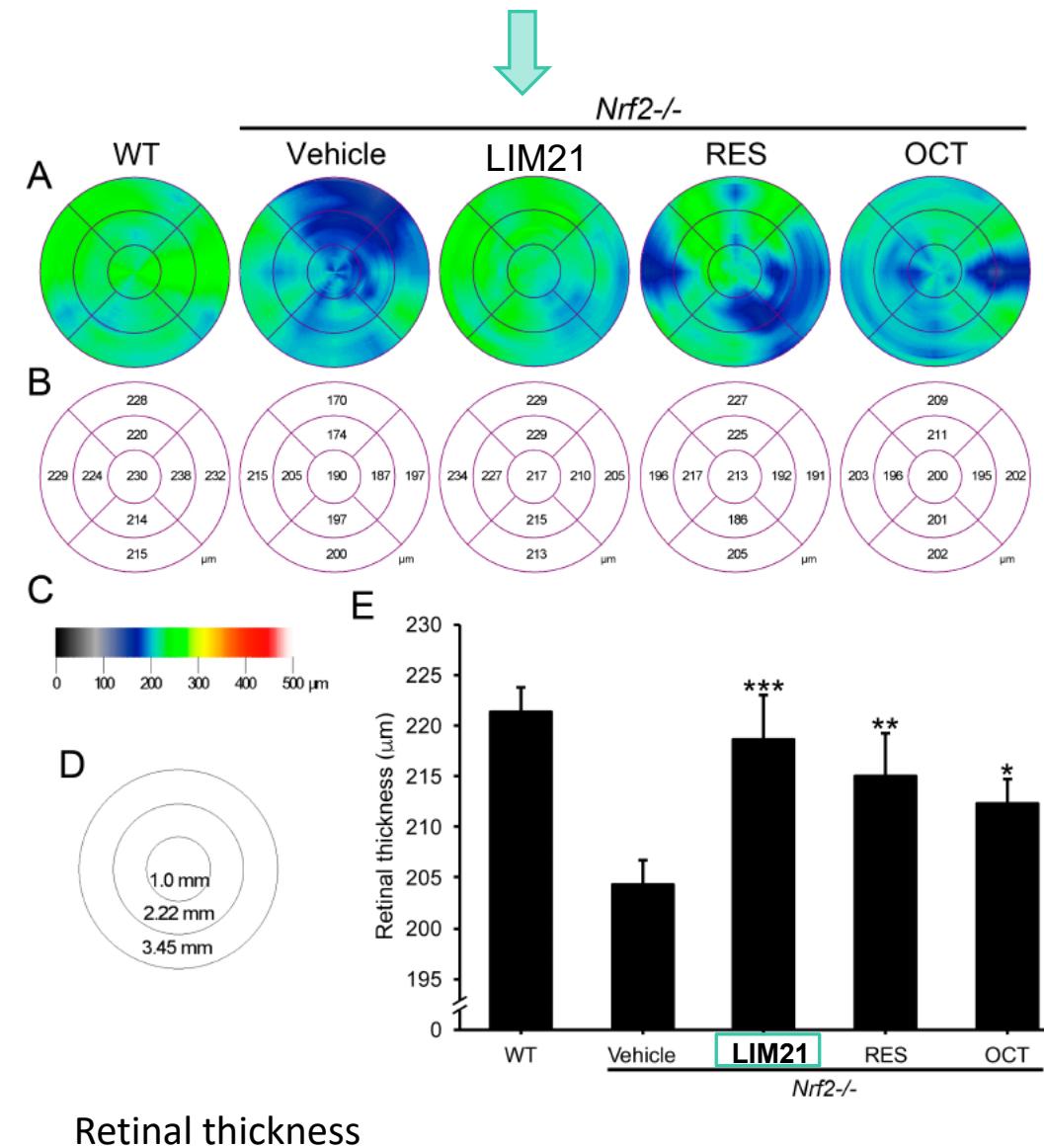
Treatment months 4-8  
5 doses/week, 20 µL, 5mM (0.25%)  
**EYE DROPS Administration**



# NRF2<sup>-/-</sup> mice assay

**LIM21 treatment increases considerably retinal thickness on NRF2<sup>-/-</sup> mice.**

**In fact, retinal thickness is similar to that observed in healthy control mice (WT)**



Retinal thickness

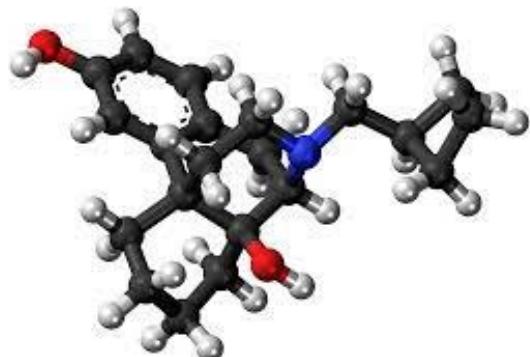
# The Solution: LIM21

limnopharma

- Administration



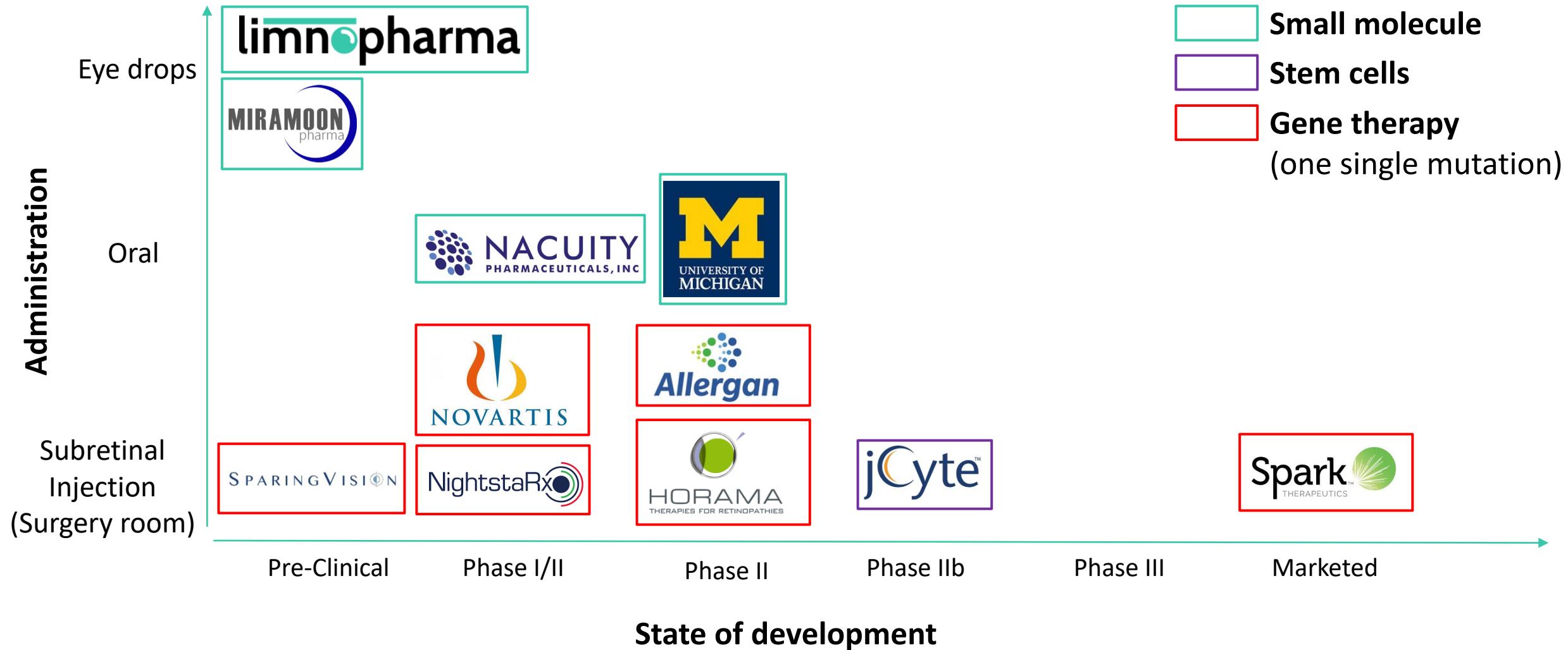
- Small molecule



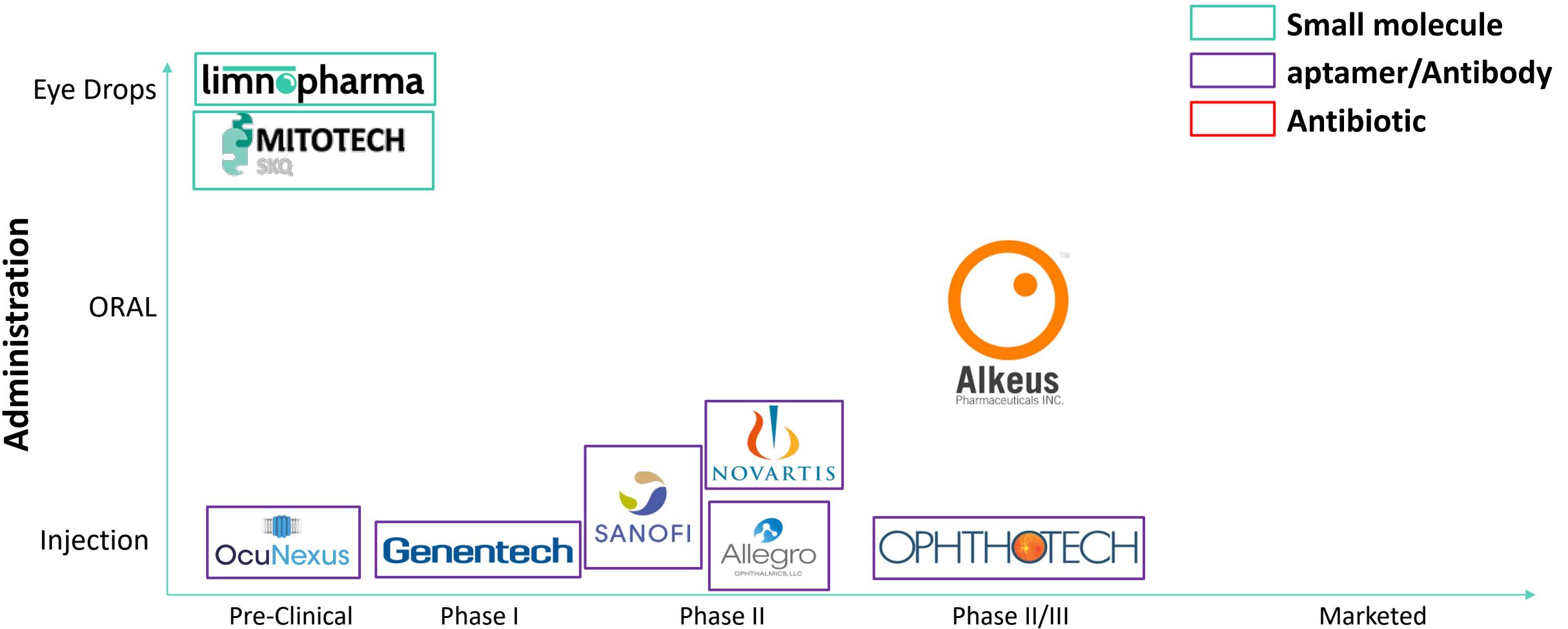
- Efficacy



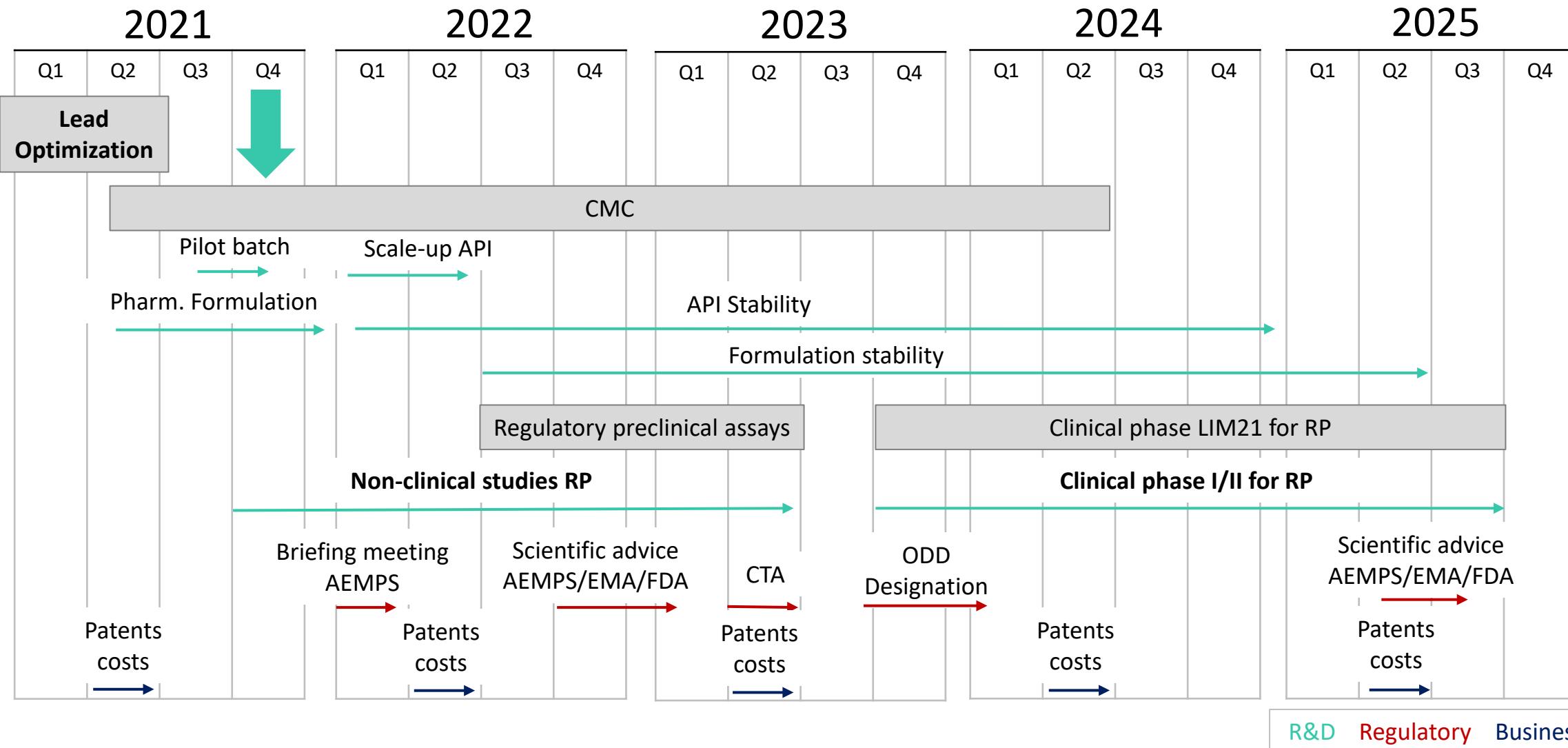
# Competitors RP:



# Competitors dry-AMD:



## 2d. Current Status of Development



# LIM21 CMC

- LIM21 has been prepared in 80 g scale

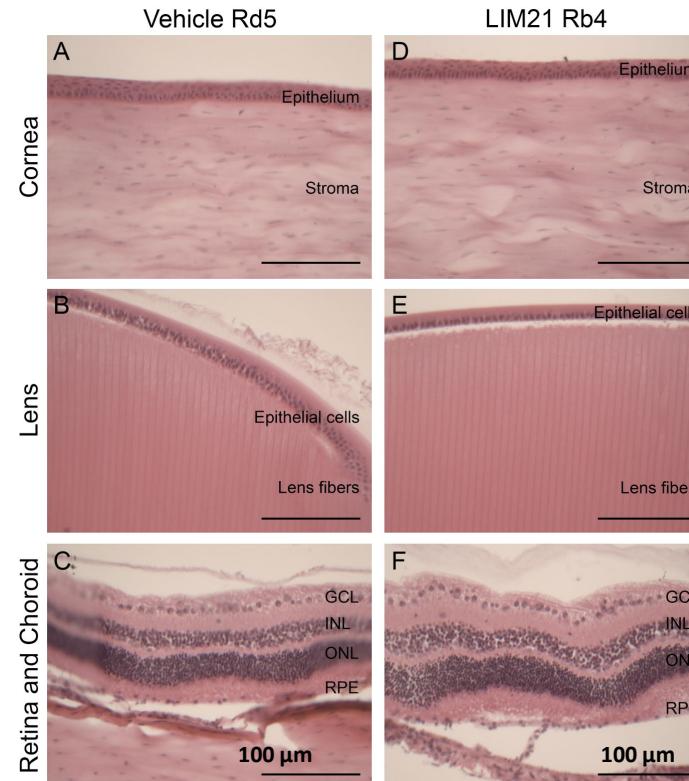


FAMAR

- LIM21 preliminary formulation (13% HP- $\beta$ -cyclodextrin, 2% tyloxapol)

# LIM21 ocular tolerability

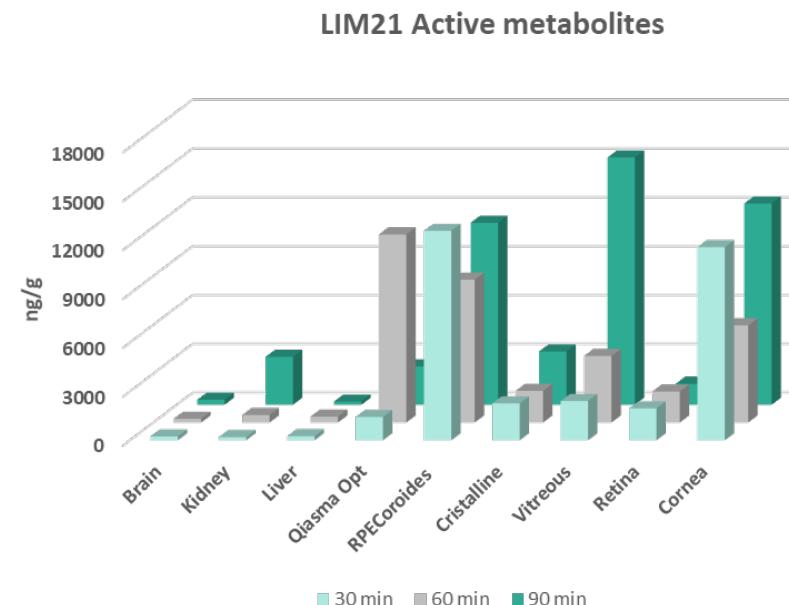
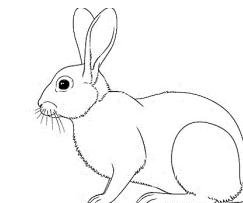
- Rabbits. Administration of LIM21 or vehicle. Eye drops 15 days, three times per day
- Outcomes: Clinical observations (mortality/morbidity and general clinical observations), Ocular observations (Draize score; McDonald-Shadducks score (corneal damage) and Schimer strips (tear secretion)



**Under these experimental conditions,  
LIM21 is well tolerated**  
**No toxicity signals were observed.**

# LIM21 biodistribution

- LIM21 eye drops
- Experimental conditions: **SD rats**
  - \* samples at 30, 60 or 90 min
  - \* UPLC-MS-MS
- Experimental conditions: **Rabbits**, those for the tolerability study
  - \* sample collection at 20 h
  - \* UPLC-MS-MS



LIM21 active metabolites  
detected in the back of the eye  
for both, rats and rabbits

# 2.e. Intellectual Property

1

(12) SOLICITUD INTERNACIONAL PUBLICADA EN VIRTUD DEL TRATADO DE COOPERACIÓN EN MATERIA DE PATENTES (PCT)

(19) Organización Mundial de la Propiedad Intelectual Oficina internacional

(43) Fecha de publicación internacional  
31 de mayo de 2018 (31.05.2018)



(10) Número de publicación internacional

WO 2018/096196 A1

(51) Clasificación internacional de patentes:  
*A61K 31/7024 (2006.01) A61P 27/02 (2006.01)*

(21) Número de la solicitud internacional:  
*PCT/ES2017/070760*

(22) Fecha de presentación internacional:  
17 de noviembre de 2017 (17.11.2017)

(25) Idioma de presentación:  
español

(26) Idioma de publicación:  
español

(30) Datos relativos a la prioridad:  
P 201631503 23 de noviembre de 2016 (23.11.2016) ES

(71) Solicitantes: CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTÍFICAS (CSIC) [ES/ES]; C/ Serrano, 117, 28006 Madrid (ES). FUNDACIÓN PÚBLICA ANDALUZA PROGRESO Y BIOMEDICINA [ES/ES]; Avda. América Vespucio, 5, Bloque 2, 2<sup>a</sup> planta, 41092 Sevilla (ES).

(72) Inventores: MORALES SÁNCHEZ, Juan Carlos; INSTITUTO DE PARASITOLOGÍA Y BIOMEDICINA LOPEZ NEYRA (IPBLN), Avd. del conocimiento, s/n, 18100 Armilla (Granada) (ES). PEÑALVER PUENTE, Pablo; INSTITUTO DE PARASITOLOGÍA Y BIOMEDICINA LOPEZ NEYRA (IPBLN), Avd. del conocimiento, s/n, 18100 Armilla (Granada) (ES). DÍAZ CORRALES, Francisco Javier; CENTRO ANDALUZ DE BIOLOGÍA MOLECULAR Y MEDICINA REGENERATIVA (CABIMER), Avda. América Vespucio, 24, Edif. CABIMER Parque Científico y Tecnológico Cartuja, 41092 Sevilla (ES).

VALDÉS SÁNCHEZ, María Lourdes; CENTRO ANDALUZ DE BIOLOGÍA MOLECULAR Y MEDICINA REGENERATIVA (CABIMER), Avda. América Vespucio, 24, Edif. CABIMER Parque Científico y Tecnológico Cartuja, 41092 Sevilla (ES). GARCÍA DELGADO, Ana Belén; CENTRO ANDALUZ DE BIOLOGÍA MOLECULAR Y MEDICINA REGENERATIVA (CABIMER), Avda. América Vespucio, 24, Edif. CABIMER Parque Científico y Tecnológico Cartuja, 41092 Sevilla (ES). MONTERO SÁNCHEZ, Adoración; CENTRO ANDALUZ DE BIOLOGÍA MOLECULAR Y MEDICINA REGENERATIVA (CABIMER), Avda. América Vespucio, 24, Edif. CABIMER Parque Científico y Tecnológico Cartuja, 41092 Sevilla (ES).

(74) Mandatario: PONS ARIÑO, Ángel; Glorieta de Rubén Darío, 4, 28010 Madrid (ES).

2

(12) SOLICITUD INTERNACIONAL PUBLICADA EN VIRTUD DEL TRATADO DE COOPERACIÓN EN MATERIA DE PATENTES (PCT)

(19) Organización Mundial de la Propiedad Intelectual Oficina internacional

(43) Fecha de publicación internacional  
07 de junio de 2018 (07.06.2018)



(10) Número de publicación internacional  
WO 2018/100219 A1

(51) Clasificación internacional de patentes:  
*C07C 39/21 (2006.01) A61K 31/695 (2006.01)  
C07F 7/08 (2006.01)*

(21) Número de la solicitud internacional:  
*PCT/ES2017/070776*

(22) Fecha de presentación internacional:  
23 de noviembre de 2017 (23.11.2017)

(25) Idioma de presentación:  
español

(26) Idioma de publicación:  
español

(30) Datos relativos a la prioridad:  
P 201631535 30 de noviembre de 2016 (30.11.2016) ES

(71) Solicitante: CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTÍFICAS (CSIC) [ES/ES]; C/ Serrano, 117, 28006 Madrid (ES).

(72) Inventores: MORALES SÁNCHEZ, Juan Carlos; INSTITUTO DE PARASITOLOGÍA Y BIOMEDICINA LOPEZ NEYRA (IPBLN), Avd. del conocimiento, s/n, 18100 Armilla (Granada) (ES). PEÑALVER PUENTE, Pablo; INSTITUTO DE PARASITOLOGÍA Y BIOMEDICINA LOPEZ NEYRA (IPBLN), Avd. del conocimiento, s/n, 18100 Armilla (Granada) (ES). BELMONTE RECHE, Efres; INSTITUTO DE PARASITOLOGÍA Y BIOMEDICINA LOPEZ NEYRA (IPBLN), Avd. del conocimiento, s/n, 18100 Armilla (Granada) (ES). GONZÁLEZ REY, Elena; INSTITUTO DE PARASITOLOGÍA Y BIOMEDICINA LOPEZ NEYRA (IPBLN), Avd. del conocimiento, s/n, 18100 Armilla (Granada) (ES). MATEOS MARTÍN, María Luisa; INSTITUTO DE PARASITOLOGÍA Y BIOMEDICINA LOPEZ NEYRA (IPBLN), Avd. del conocimiento, s/n, 18100 Armilla (Granada) (ES).

(74) Mandatario: PONS ARIÑO, Ángel; Glorieta de Rubén Darío, 4, 28010 Madrid (ES).

Extended in:

- EU
- USA GRANTED

Extended in:

- EU
- USA GRANTED
- Japan
- China
- Canada
- Australia
- Mexico



## 2.f. Pitfalls & Risks to be considered

### ➤ Preclinical:

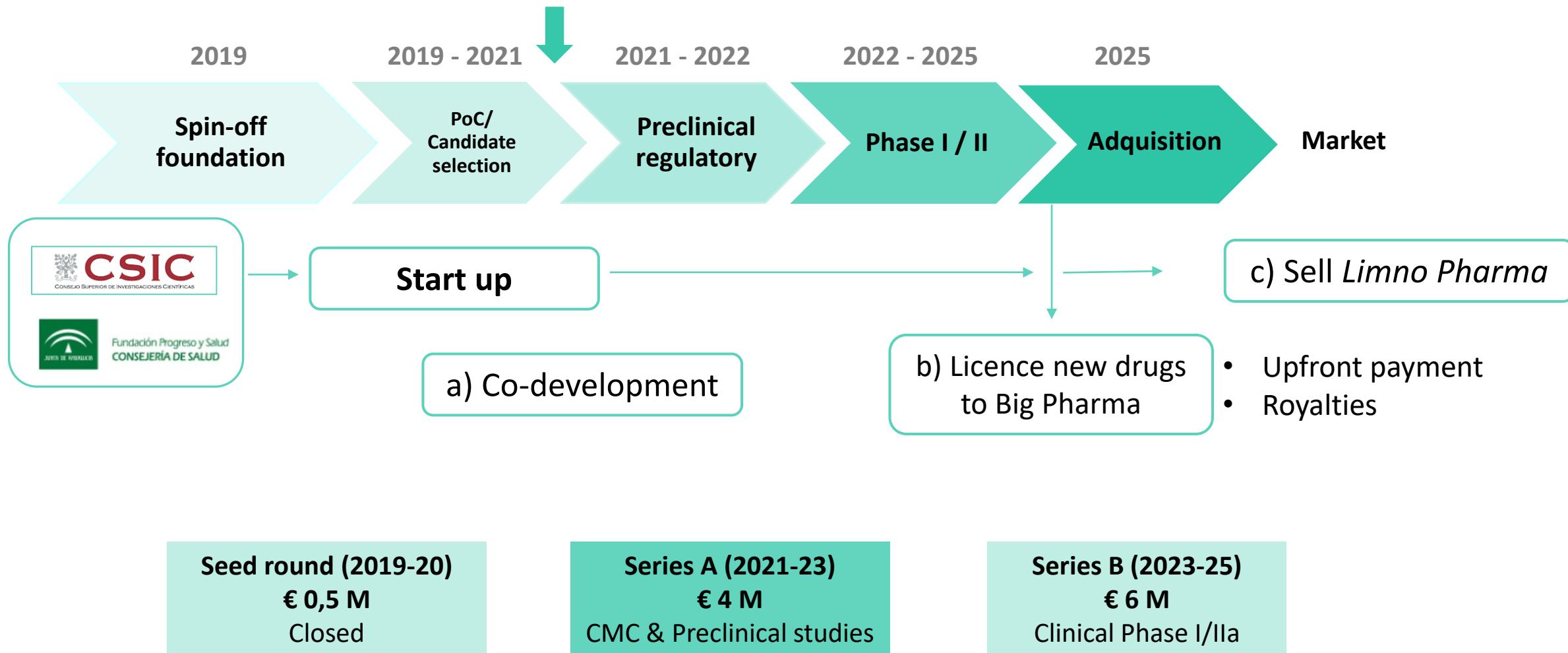
- CMC: Low risk
- Biodistribution (Back of the eye): Low risk
- Toxicity: Low risk

### ➤ Clinical:

- Safety: Low risk
- Efficacy: Medium risk. Difficulty in RP clinical trial design



### 3. Partnering Opportunities



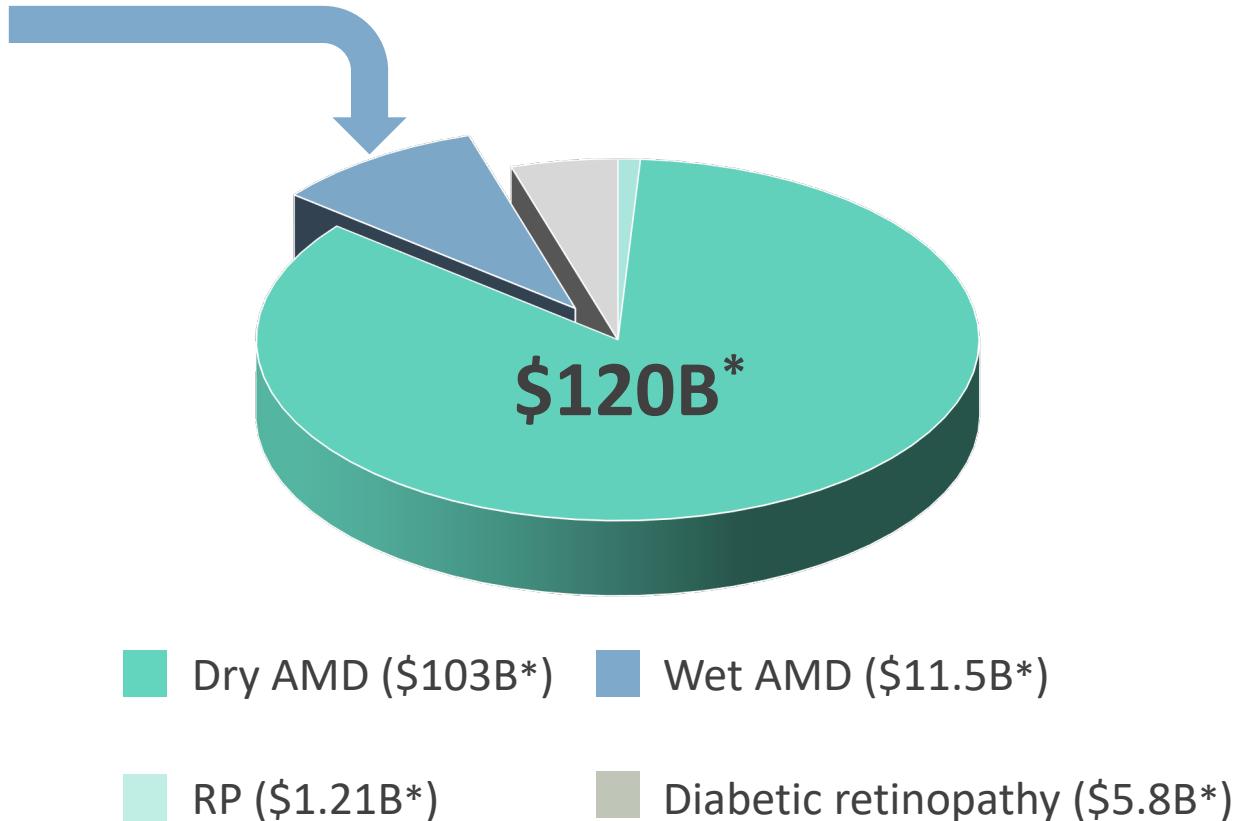
# Market analysis

Wet AMD market will increase from \$4.9B (2016) to \$11.5B (2026) in the 7MM<sup>§</sup>



\$6551 M, sales in 2018

(Among the 10 top-selling drugs)



7MM<sup>§</sup>: USA, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom and Japan

\* Estimated from wet AMD market in 2026



**World Health Organization:  
2200 M People with low vision or  
blindness  
1000M could be treated**

limnopharma

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**Juan Carlos Morales, PhD**  
Scientific Advisor & Founder  
[jcmorales@limnopharma.com](mailto:jcmorales@limnopharma.com)