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# **Development of Targeted Therapeutics for Inflammatory Disease**



SEPTEMBER 2013

## **Corporate Overview**

## Private, venture-backed corporation

- Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
- SHIP1 discovery made at UBC

## **Strong investor syndicate**

- Baker Brothers, J&J Dev. Corp., Pfizer Ventures, Pharmstandard Investments, and Ventures West
- Closed \$18 million Series C March 2013
- ~\$60 million raised to-date

## **Series C proceeds to position for Phase III trials:**

- Two Phase II studies: COPD and IC/BPS
- Chronic tox studies
- Large-scale CMC campaign

# **Highlights**

### First-in-class program for inflammatory disease

- World leaders developing small molecules that target SHIP1
- Important pathway (PI3K) for cell activation and migration
- Blockbuster and niche/rare clinical opportunities

### **Strong lead compound - AQX-1125**

- ADME properties suitable for oral, once daily dosing
- Potent in vitro and broad in vivo efficacy data
- Multi-part Phase I study complete: well-tolerated with dose-proportional PK
- Two Phase IIa studies complete: primary endpoint met in both studies
- Decisive data from two Phase II trials (COPD & IC/BPS) available Q4 2014

## **Well-protected intellectual property**

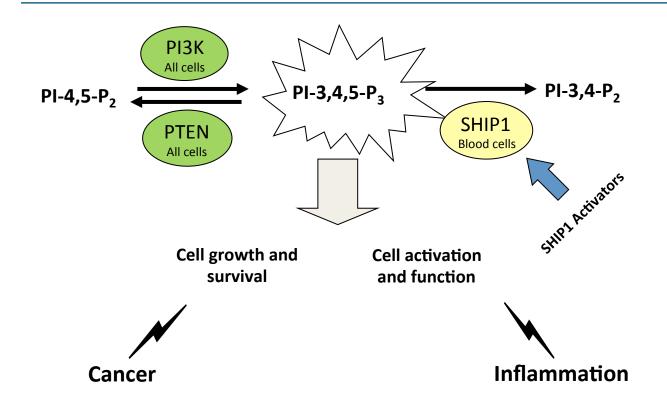
- Issued COM claims to AQX-1125 in the US and Europe
- Chemical space is free of prior art

Large, diverse library of 2<sup>nd</sup> generation compounds (incl. oncology)



# SHIP1 is an Ideal Drug Target

SHIP1 is nature's way to regulate PI3K in immune cells



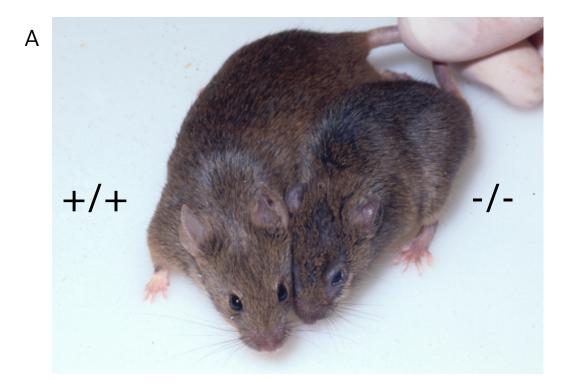
SHIP1 activators have the potential to become the next generation anti-inflammatory drugs

- ✓ Restricted expression to hematopoietic derived cells limits off tissue toxicity
- ✓ Plays key role in regulating cell migration and activation
- ✓ SHIP1 activators redirect signalling, not block it
- ✓ Non-catalytic binding site imparts target selectivity and limits off target toxicity
- ✓ Small molecule oral dosing



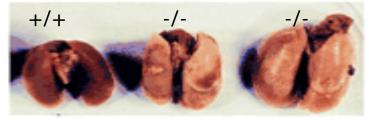
## Features of SHIP1 -/- Mice

Roadmap for Clinical Indications – Airway, GI, Bladder



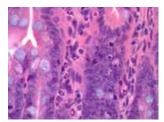
• Viable & fertile, ~40% survival by 14 weeks

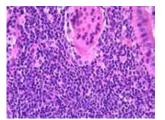
Helgason *et al*, Genes & Development, 1998, 12: 1610-1620. Oh *et al*, Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, 2007, 119: 123-131. Kerr *et al*, Gut, 2011, 60: 177-188. McLarren *et al*, American Journal of Pathology, 2011, 179: 180-188. В



- Increased GM progenitors
- Infiltration of lungs with macrophages/neutrophils
- Airway remodeling/fibrosis

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- Mixed inflammatory infiltrates
- Granuloma
- Fibrosis
- Colitis phenotype

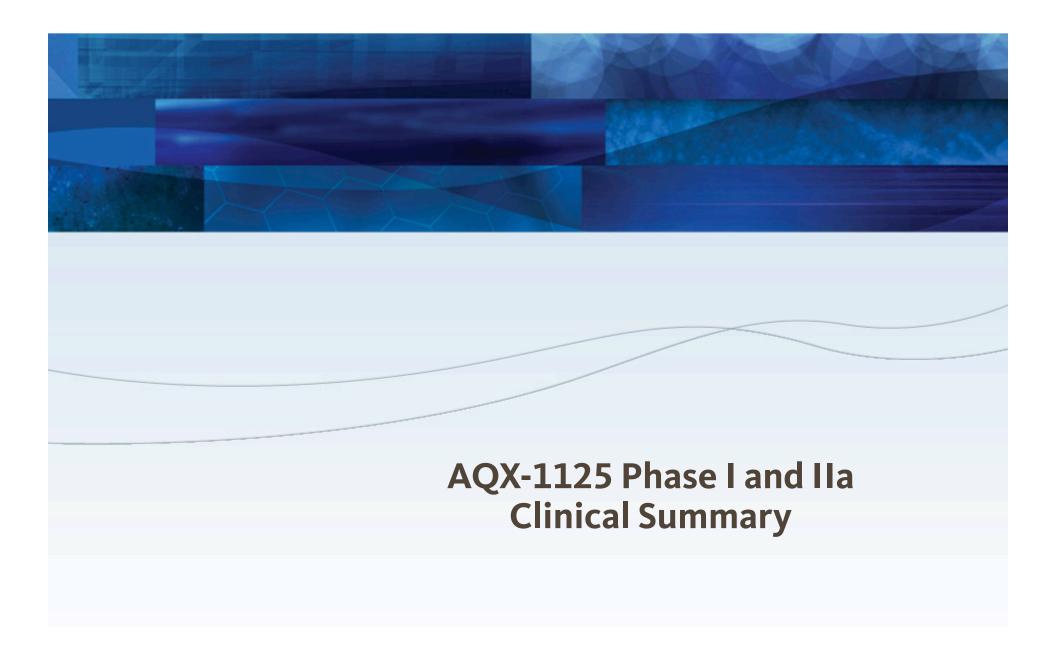


## **AQX-1125** Positive *In Vivo* Data

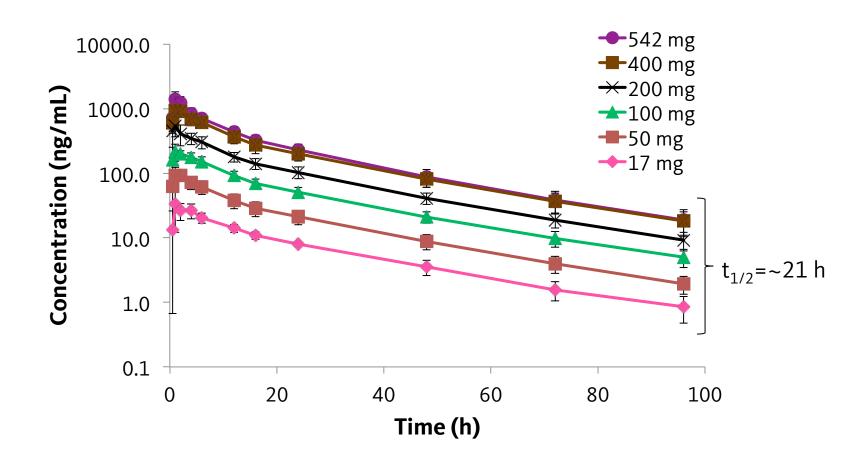
Clinical Indication	Animal Model	Endpoint
COPD / Respiratory	LPS Airway Inflammation (Rat)	<b>Ψ</b> neutrophils
	Ovalbumin Airway Inflammation (Rat)	eosinophils
	Smoke Airway Inflammation (Mouse)	<b>Ψ</b> neutrophils
	Bleomycin Fibrosis (Mouse)	<b>↓</b> collagen
		↑ survival
Interstitial Cystitis /	Cyclophosphamide Bladder Cystitis (Rat)	<b>Ψ</b> inflammatory pain
Bladder Pain Syndrome		◆ hemorrhage
	Carrageenan Paw Edema (Mouse)	<b>♥</b> edema
IBD	TNBS IBD (Rat)	adhesions/strictures
		<b>♦</b> inflammation

AQX-1125 not active in models of RA, MS, nor Uveitis

Activity in models consistent with phenotype of SHIP1 knock-out mouse

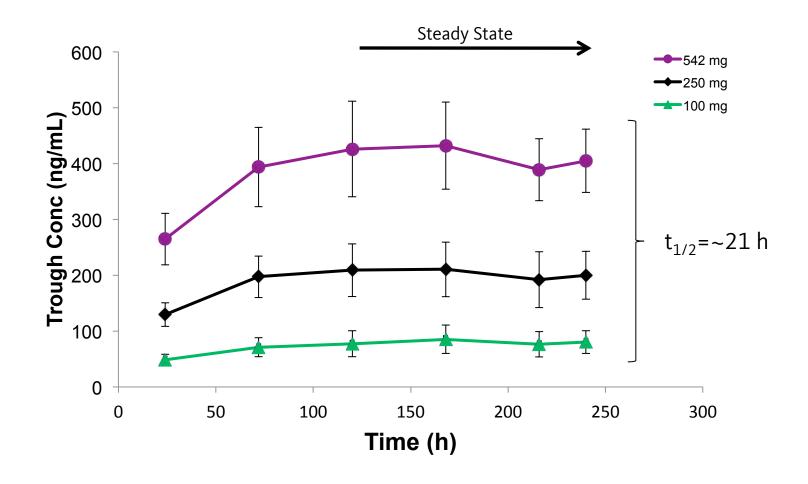


## Phase I: SAD PK



AQX-1125 exhibits ideal PK suitable for once-a-day oral dosing

## Phase I: MAD PK



Human exposure above preclinical target coverage

# **Phase IIa: Proof-of-Concept Studies**

Evaluation of preclinical translation and distinct inflammatory challenges

## **Allergen Challenge (Asthma POC)**

- Respiratory Clinical Trials Group, London, UK Pl's: Drs. Leaker & O'Connor
- Cross-over study (450 mg vs. placebo); 22 mild asthmatics, QD x 7
- Lung function (powered to p=0.05), sputum leukocytes and analyte endpoints
- Achieved primary endpoint: 20% Inhibition of Late Asthmatic Response (LAR) (p=0.027)

## LPS Challenge (COPD POC)

- Celerion, Belfast, UK PI's: Drs. Smith & Elborn
- Cross-over study (450 mg vs. placebo); 20 NH volunteers, QD x 7
- Sputum leukocytes (powered to p=0.1) and analyte endpoints
- Known steroid refractory challenge
- Achieved primary endpoint: 62% Inhibition of sputum neutrophils (p=0.067)

**SHIP1** is an active target in humans

# **AQX-1125** Phase I and IIa Summary

## **Near ideal PK and ADME properties**

- Dose proportional PK with limited variability
- Rapid and complete oral absorption
- $T_{1/2} \sim 21 \text{ hrs} = \text{Once-daily dosing}$

#### Well tolerated at all doses studied

- Doses ≤ 200mg equivalent to placebo
- Doses > 200mg mild GI upset ameliorated by food
- No noted peripheral blood count effects

## Unique MOA, broad in vivo and cellular response

- Potent in models of mucosal inflammation
- Active against two distinct inflammatory challenges in humans
- Active in steroid resistant indication(s)
- Anti-fibrotic activity

Successful translation of preclinical to clinical results

# **AQX-1125** Development Strategy/Opportunities

**Mucosal Surfaces** 

Acute Phase – Exacerbations, flares

Chronic Phase – Fibrotic disease, remodeling

#### **Lung/Airway**

- Chronic Rhinosinusitis (CRS) (Orphan)
- Asthma:
  - Steroid unresponsive, Moderate-severe
- · COPD:
  - Moderate-severe
- Non-CF Bronchiectasis (NCFBE) (Orphan)
- Churg-Strauss Syndrome (CSS) (Orphan)
- Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF)

#### **Urinary Tract**

- Lupus Nephritis
- Non-infectious Nephritis
- Renal Fibrosis
- Interstitial Cystitis / Bladder Pain Syndrome

#### GI

- Eosinophilic Esophagitis (Orphan)
- Crohn's
- Ulcerative Colitis (UC)

Current Phase II studies: COPD and IC/BPS – steroid resistant indications with acute phase



# Interstitial Cystitis/Bladder Pain Syndrome

Disease driven by chronic inflammation and pain following damage to bladder lining

3-8 million women affected in the US

IC/BPS amongst most challenging urologic conditions

**Current approach = direct instillation for short-term relief + symptomatic (analgesics) etc.** 

US economic burden of ~\$30-\$70 billion/year (IC Assoc)

AQX-1125's biodistribution, anti-inflammatory and pain reducing properties make it compelling for IC/BPS investigation

# **LEADERSHIP Study: Summary**

# Objective: Evaluate effects of AQX-1125 on pain in subjects with IC/BPS utilizing eDiaries

- ~70 moderate to severe IC/BPS patients will be enrolled and randomized
- ~15 sites in Canada

**Estimated completion date: Q4/2014** 

# **Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)**

# High unmet need for effective anti-inflammatories that reduce exacerbations and slow/prevent disease progression

- Exacerbations driven by viral and bacterial infections resulting in high mucus (neutrophil) production
- Chronic inflammation leads to fibrosis and reduced lung function
- Bronchodilators reaching maximum effect
- Inhaled steroids ineffective and increase pneumonia risk

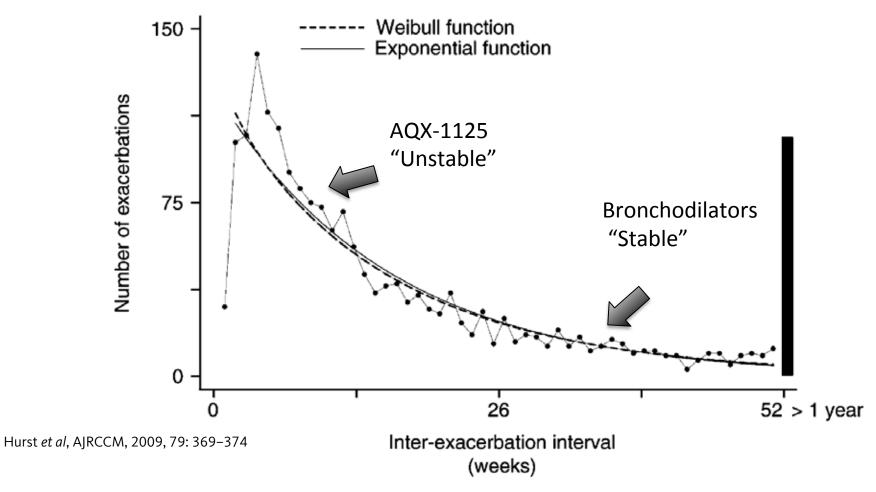
600 million affected and 4th leading cause of death globally

Leading cause of urgent hospitalisations in many countries

Global economic burden >\$100 billion

AQX-1125's anti-inflammatory and anti-fibrotic properties in steroid-refractory models provide clear competitive differentiation

## **COPD: Exacerbations Cause Morbidity and Mortality**



Pioneering AQX FLAGSHIP study in unstable population

# **FLAGSHIP Study: Summary**

Objective: Evaluate effects of AQX-1125 on resolution and exacerbation rates in "at risk" COPD population

~350-400 moderate to severe COPD patients

Immediately following (hospitalized), or with (outpatient) COPD exacerbation

~30-40 sites in Northern/Central Europe

**Estimated completion date: Q4/2014** 

# **Highlights**

Novel target platform w/ near ideal lead candidate in Phase II Unencumbered once-daily oral product for blockbuster and niche indications

Strong translation from preclinical to clinical results

Decisive near-term Phase II clinical data: Q4/2014

Focused on under-invested areas; limited competition

Well-protected intellectual property

Large, diverse library of potential backup and next generation compounds

**Experienced management and strong investors** 

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