

Pioneering first in class Obeisty treatment through *TRANSIENT* amino acid starvation

- Team and vision
- Market and unmet needs
- Rationales and mode of actions
- Differentiation from GLP-1R agonist
- Risks mitigation
- Path to clinical proof of concept data

Company overview

Founders and Management Team



Prof. Thomas Leung Co-founder

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University





- 20+ year of arginase discovery ٠
- First in the world to create • engineered arginase for clinical use
- Modified arginase licensed to ٠ two clinical stage companies







20+ years of obesity and metabolism study

香港中文大學醫學院

he Chinese University of Hong Kong

Expert in pre-clinical mouse models in obesity and other metabolic diseases



Dr. Bill Wong Chief Executive Officer



Bristol-Myers Squibb

Johnson Johnson

- +11 year of drug development experience
- **3 IND submissions** ٠
- 3 investment deals closed ٠

Mission and Vision

Mission: Pioneering first in class Obesity treatment through TRANSIENT amino acid starvation

Vision: One drug to treat Obesity inter-related diseases

Team and vision

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Reported concerns over GLP-1R agonist

 Daily appetite suppression using GLP-1R agonist is significantly associated with depression and gastrointestinal discomfort, resulting in discontinuation rates of 26.2%, 30.8%, and 36.5% at 3, 6, and 12 months, respectively¹

 Reductions in lean mass range between 40% and 60% as a proportion of total weight lost²

 Approximately 18% of patients regained all the weight they had lost within one year after discontinuing the medication³

I. Do D et al. GLP-1 receptor agonist discontinuation among patients with obesity and/or type 2 diabetes. JAMA Netw Open. 2024;7(5):e2413172-

^{2.} Neeland, I. J., (2024). Changes in lean body mass with glucagon-like peptide-1-based therapies and mitigation strategies. Diabetes Obesity and Metabolism, 26(S4), 16–27

^{3.} https://www.webmd.com/obesity/news/20240124/many-patients-who-stop-weight-loss-drugs-keep-pounds-off-study

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The next wave of weight loss drug

Prior human and animal studies linking ABCD and amino acid metabolism

- High serum levels of arginine, leucine and other amino acids are highly correlated with obesity¹
- Deficiency of amino acids such as leucine and cysteine in mice have been shown to induce weight loss through utilization of fat mass²⁻³
- Arginine depletion can promote weight loss in mice ⁴
- Loss of appetite and insufficient weight gain as drug specific adverse event reported in cancer patients taking arginine depletion agent ⁵



^{2.} Varghese, A., et al., (2024). Unraveling cysteine deficiency-associated rapid weight loss. *bioRxiv (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory)*

5. https://aacrjournals.org/cancerres/article/78/13_Supplement/CT030/630941/Abstract-CT030-Phase-I-dose-escalation-trial-of



^{3.} Cheng, Y., et al., (2009). Leucine deprivation decreases fat mass by stimulation of lipolysis in white adipose tissue and upregulation of uncoupling protein 1 (UCP1) in brown adipose tissue. Diabetes, 59(1)

^{4.} Zhang, Y et al. (2022). Pegylated arginine deiminase drives arginine turnover and systemic autophagy to dictate energy metabolism. Cell Reports Medicine, 3(1), 100498

Stress our body with TRANSIENT arginine starvation

- Eliminating a specific amino acid from the diet is impractical, necessitating medical intervention
- The absence of essential amino acids, such as lysine, can have severe consequences, leading to mortality in mice

• Our drug can transiently lower intra-cellular level of arginine to provide a stress signal without the risk of long term depletion

Albumin binding domain (ABD) to extend arginase half life



LONG-ACTING: One dose per week



Appetite suppressants	Energy storage Blocker	Exercise mimetics	Muscle perservation
GLP-1 receptor agonist	GIP inhibitor	Apelin receptor agonist	Activin receptor II inhibitor
GLP-2 receptor agonist	INHBE modulator	FGF21 agonist	Myostatin inhibitor
Amylin	Acc1 inhibitor	UCP1 activator	<u>Muscle stem cell</u> promoter
Cannabinoid Agonist	Fasn inhibitor	NLRP3 inhibitor	
Insulin sensitizer	Scd1 inhibitor		
Hypothalamus AMPK inhibitor	Lipophagy inducer		
Intermittent fasting			

Bolded underlined MOA is observed using ABarginase

TRANSIENT low level of arginine in hypothalamus contributes to 7 day intermittent fasting cycle





* Mice remain active and burn fat in metabolic cage during the fasting period

Inhibition of AMPK activation accounts for the low food intake



target against obesity? European Journal of Endocrinology, 176(5)

Lipophagy inducer

Large number of autolysosome degrading lipid droplet





Fatty Liver in obese mice

After drug treatment

AL: autolysosome LD: lipid droplet

Reverse obesity

Reverse fatty liver

Reverse insulin resistance

**

8wk

70

60

50

40 30 20

10

0

**

4wk

HOMA-IR Index







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12wk

After 12 weeks of once-weekly treatment

12 weeks of once-weekly treatment

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ABarginase

novo nordisk[®] Semaglutide (GLP-1R agonist)

VS

Enhanced body weight reduction



Normalization of body composition

0 week	ABarginase	Semaglutide
Fat composition (%)	39	41
Lean mass composition (%)	50	49

9 th week treatment	ABarginase	Semaglutide
Fat composition (%)	21 \downarrow	39
Lean mass composition (%)	70 1	50

No bodyweight rebound



Extended Lifespan



Differentiation from GLP-1R agonist

	ABarginase (Preclinical)	GLP-1R agonist (Preclinical and Human)
Weight loss	Weight loss close to 50%	Weight loss close to 23% (Preclinical)
Body composition	21% fat and 70% lean mass	39% fat and 50% lean mass (Preclinical)
Lipophagy	Liver	Not being reported
Appetite suppression	Intermittent fasting	Daily suppression (Preclinical and Human)
Pancreatitis	No enlargement of pancreas	Enlargement of pancreas (Preclinical) 146% higher risk of pancreatitis (Human)
Insulin	Improved insulin sensitivity	Increased insulin production (Preclinical and Human)
Bodyweight rebound	No rebound of bodyweight	Rebound of bodyweight in 18% of the patients (Human)
Lifespan	Extended lifespan by a minimum of 25%	Not being reported
Cancer risk	Prevent HCC occurrence	Black box warning: increased risk of thyroid cancer (Preclinical and Human)

Strong IP position

- Composition and application patents filed in 14 jurisdictions, including USA and Europe
- 5 Patents granted including EU
- Patents expire in 2039
- Broad claims covering over 20 disease indications

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Risks	Mitigation measures
Safety : Long term arginine depletion may lead to cardiovascular problems and other health issues	Administration of ABarginase at efficacious levels over the course of a year did not cause any observable toxicity and cardiovascular problems
Efficacy : Generation of neutralizing antibody may lead to drug resistance	No drug resistance observed over a year of treatment
Efficacy: Efficacy in mice does not translate in human setting.	Weight loss in animal models is positively correlated with the weight loss observed in humans ¹
Patient compliance : Intravenous drug administration may restrict patient compliance	Subcutaneous formulation has been developed and validated
Production scale up : Compromised protein yield and purity from 2L to 30L culture	We have achieved production of over 2.0 g/L purified protein in 30L fermenter

1. Anti-obesity drug discovery: advances and challenges Nat Rev Drug Discov 2022, 21(3):201-223.

8-month safety data



p < 0.05, one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's test

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POC clinical weight loss data by the end of 2026



International recognition

International Exhibition of Inventions Geneva 2023





Gold Medal with Congratulations of the Jury

First-in-class Drug for Treatment of Multiple ABCD-related Metabolic Diseases

International Federation of Inventors' Associations



IFIA Best Invention Award

WE are READY to achieve our MISSION

To the Patients and Their Families

HEALTH



Are YOU READY to support US?

LOPE

HAPPINESS