



# Translational and Early Phase Clinical Research in Singapore

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**2<sup>nd</sup> ICPOEP**  
21<sup>st</sup> November 2015

# It Starts at the Top



**NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION**  
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE  
SINGAPORE  
Research . Innovation . Enterprise

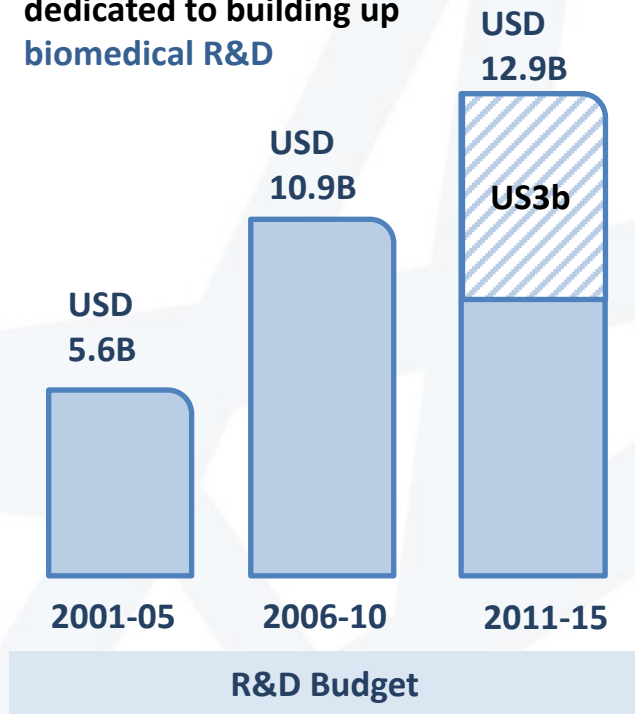
The National Research Foundation (NRF) is a dept. within the PM's office, and sets the national direction for R&D by:

- **Developing policies, plans and strategies** for research, innovation and enterprise;
- **Funding initiatives** that strengthen research and scientific capabilities, and achieve economic and national impact;
- **Building up R&D capabilities and capacities** through nurturing our people and attracting foreign researchers and scientists; and
- **Coordinating the research agenda** of different agencies to transform Singapore into a knowledge-intensive, innovative and entrepreneurial economy.

<http://www.nrf.gov.sg/about-nrf/national-research-foundation-singapore#sthash.khwxX0im.dpuf>

# Strong Government Support in R&D

**USD 3B** Budget  
dedicated to building up  
biomedical R&D



1

**USD 100 Million** for  
Translational Clinical Research Programmes

2

Focus on **Asian Prevalent Diseases**

METABOLIC DISEASES  
ONCOLOGY  
CARDIOVASCULAR  
EYE DISEASES  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES  
NEUROSCIENCES

3

Schemes to provide funding for  
**private-public collaborations** and  
**clinical trials**

# Funding

## Translational and Clinical Research (TCR) Flagship Programme

- TCR Flagship Programmes provide significant levels of funding to build up a critical mass of experienced high-level researchers to facilitate a broader research platform, and increase collaboration both locally and internationally.
- Offers two tiers of funding for over 5 years, to provide existing programmes renewal opportunities and to allow for the funding of new programmes.
- Funds will be drawn from the Research, Innovation and Enterprise (RIE) 2015 Open Collaborative Fund (OCF) budget where S\$175M is allocated for the TCR Flagship Programmes.

# TCR Flagship Programmes

S/N	Title	Disease area of research	Lead PI (Institution)	Year of award
1	The Singapore Gastric Cancer Consortium – Improving Outcomes for Our Patients	Oncology (gastric cancer)	A/Prof Yeoh Khay Guan (NUS)	2007
2	Vulnerability, Disease Progression, and Treatment in Schizophrenia and Related Psychoses	Neuroscience (schizophrenia)	A/Prof Chong Siow Ann (IMH)	2008
3	Singapore Eye Research Institute TRIOS Programme (Translational Research Innovations in Ocular Surgery)	Eye diseases (glaucoma and corneal diseases)	Prof Donald Tan (SERI)	2008
4	Developmental Pathways to Metabolic Disease	Metabolic disease (developmental origins)	A/Prof Chong Yap Seng (NUS)	2008
5	Scientific Exploration, Translational Research, Operational Evaluation of Disease Prevention and Preventative Measures Through New Treatment Strategies Against Dengue (STOP Dengue)	Infectious diseases (dengue)	A/Prof Leo Yee Sin (TTSH)	2008
6	Genetic Predisposition, Epigenetic Change, MicroRNA Profiling and Experimental Therapies in Heart Failure	Cardiovascular diseases (heart failure)	Prof Mark Richards (NUHS)	2013 (Tier-1)
7	Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer: Targeting Cancer Stem Cell and Drug Resistance	Oncology (lung cancer)	A/Prof Tan Eng Huat (NCC)	2013 (Tier-1)
8	Eye Surgery and Innovative Technologies (EyeSITE)	Eye disease (glaucoma and corneal diseases)	Prof Donald Tan (SERI)	2013 (Tier-2)
9	Singapore Gastric Cancer Consortium – Re-defining Gastric Cancer Management	Oncology (gastric cancer)	A/Prof Yeoh Khay Guan (NUHS)	2013 (Tier-2)
10	National Lymphoma Translational Research Program: From Genomics to Therapeutics	Oncology (lymphoma)	A/Prof Lim Soon Thye (NCC)	2014 (Tier-1)
11	Singapore Programme of Research to Investigate New approaches – to drug discovery and clinical translation – to deliver improved treatments for Tuberculosis (SPRINT)	Infectious diseases (tuberculosis)	Prof Nicholas Paton (NUHS)	2014 (Tier-1)
12	Developmental pathways to health and disease: metabolic, neurodevelopment and related outcomes	Metabolic disease (developmental origins)	A/Prof Chong Yap Seng (NUHS)	2014 (Tier-2)
13	National Parkinson's Disease Translational Clinical Research Programme	Neuroscience (parkinson's disease)	Prof Tan Eng King (NNI)	2014 (Tier-2)
14	The Eradication of Chronic Hepatitis B	Infectious diseases (hepatitis B)	Prof Lim Seng Gee (NUHS)	2015 (Tier-2)

# Niche Capabilities

## IMUs

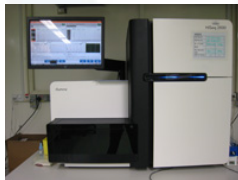
Early-phase Clinical Trial Units



## Imaging

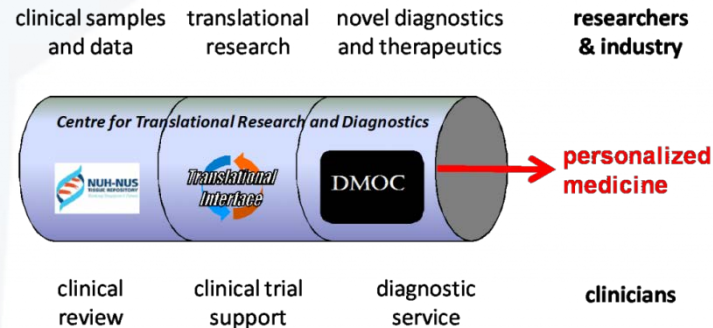


## Genomics



Genome Institute of Singapore

### CENTRE FOR TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH AND DIAGNOSTICS (CTRAD)



# Nurturing Talent



Clinician Scientist Award

High school all the way to Post-doc



MD-PhD Track

Industry Attachments



# Come Do Business

## PHARMACEUTICALS & BIOTECHNOLOGY



### EDB 'Home' Strategy

It is about extending Singapore's value proposition to businesses not just to help them improve their bottom line, but also to help them grow **their top line through establishing and deepening strategic activities** in Singapore to drive their business, innovation and talent objectives in Asia and globally.  
(Business, Innovation, Talent)

<https://www.edb.gov.sg/content/edb/en/industries/industries/pharma-biotech.html>



# Clinical Trials Review and Approval



**Health Products Regulation Group,  
Clinical Trials Branch**

**Application for Clinical Trial Certificate (CTC) – 30  
Working Days (Target Processing Timeline)**



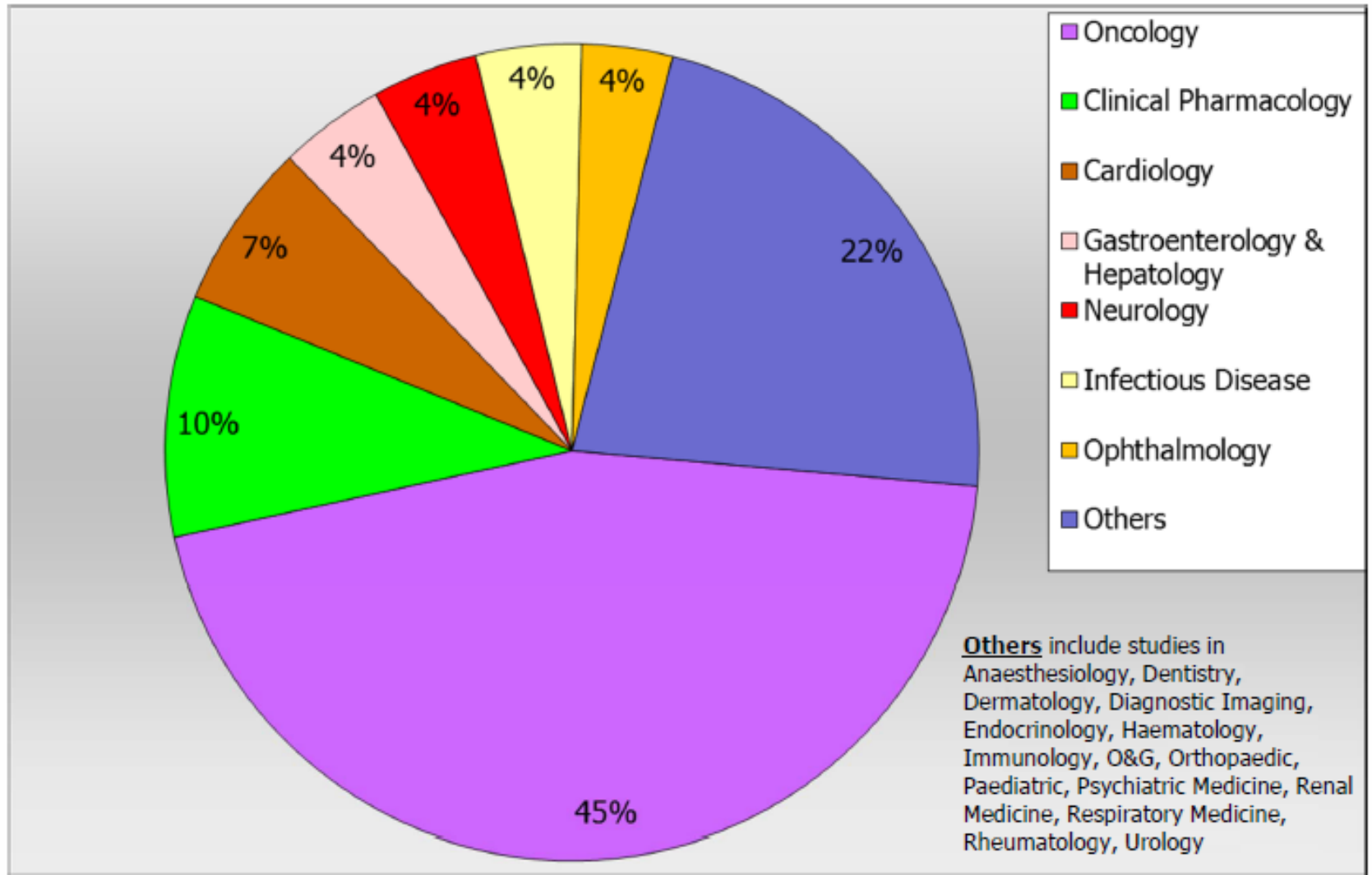
**Well established, experienced Institutional Review  
Boards with transparent processes**



# HSA – Number of CTCs Issued

Phase	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
I	21	19	20	24	31	44	48	47	54	54	55	67	57	43	56
II	44	50	52	19	49	50	35	45	61	61	46	64	51	55	70
III	63	68	97	91	88	90	116	135	140	108	95	92	99	149	111
IV	29	28	26	26	32	17	18	26	31	39	38	42	43	50	43
<b>Total</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>280</b>

# Clinical Trials by Therapeutic Area - 2014



# Clinicaltrials.gov

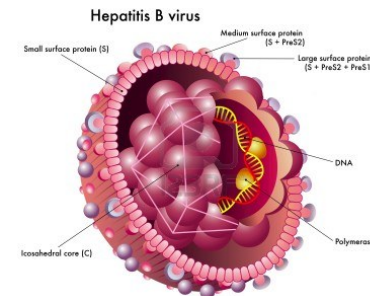
## Open Phase 1 Studies – 9<sup>th</sup> November 2015

- **Singapore - 245 studies**
  - Pop 5.47 million : 1 study per 22326
- **Hong Kong - 223 studies**
  - Pop 7.24 million : 1 study per 32466
- **Taiwan - 630 studies**
  - Pop 23 million : 1 study per 36507
- **China - 1544 studies**
  - Pop 1,401 million : 1 study per 907383
- **USA - 20367 studies**
  - Pop 321 million : 1 study per 15760

# The Ecosystem is in Place

## *Case Studies*

# Hepatitis B Anti-Viral



## Chronic Hepatitis B Infection Endemic in Asia Huge Health Impact for the Individual and Health Systems

- Multiple Ascending dose PK and Safety study in HV (2 weeks)
- Multiple Ascending dose PK , PD and Safety study in Chronic Hep B infected patients (4 weeks)
- Screened 634 Chronic Hep B Patients, dosed 64

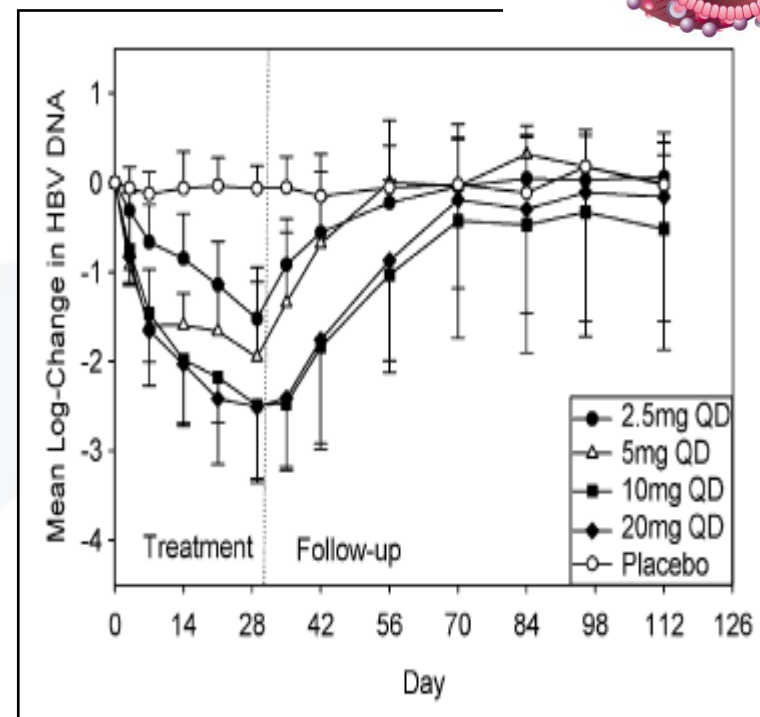
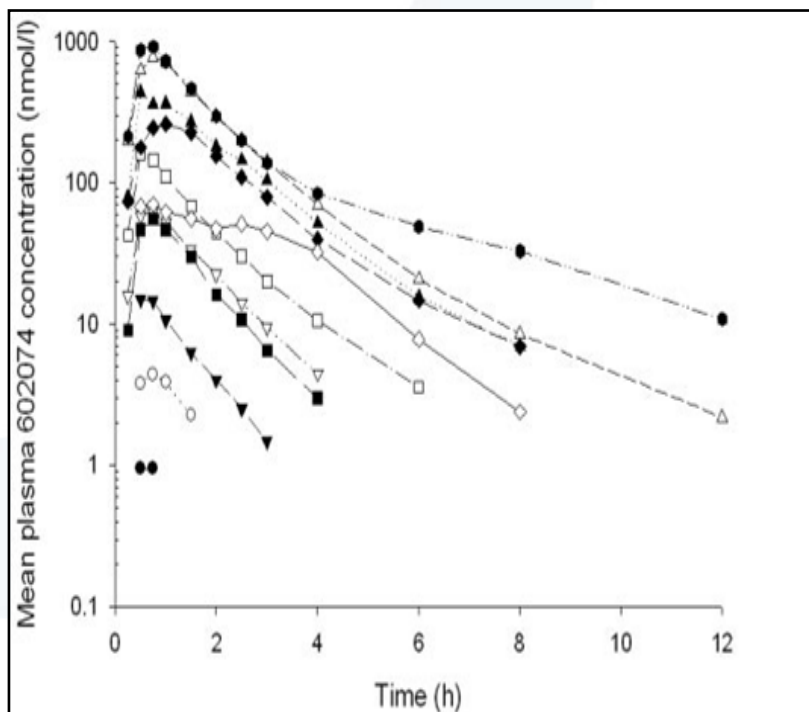
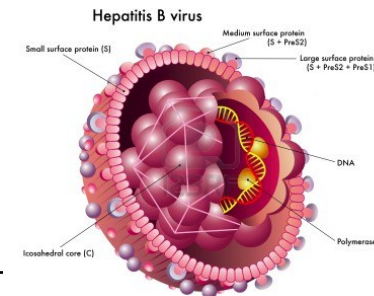
### **Safety and efficacy of alamifovir in patients with chronic hepatitis B virus infection.**

Soon DK, Lowe SL, Teng CH, Yeo KP, McGill J, Wise SD. *J Hepatol*. 2004 Nov;41(5):852-8.

### **Clinical pharmacokinetics of alamifovir and its metabolites.**

Chan C, Abu-Raddad E, Golor G, Watanabe H, Sasaki A, Yeo KP, Soon D, Sinha VP, Flanagan SD, He MM, Wise SD. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother*. 2005 May;49(5):1813-22.

# Hepatitis B Anti-Viral



## Safety and efficacy of lamivudine in patients with chronic hepatitis B virus infection.

Soon DK, Lowe SL, Teng CH, Yeo KP, McGill J, Wise SD. *J Hepatol*. 2004 Nov;41(5):852-8.

## Clinical pharmacokinetics of lamivudine and its metabolites.

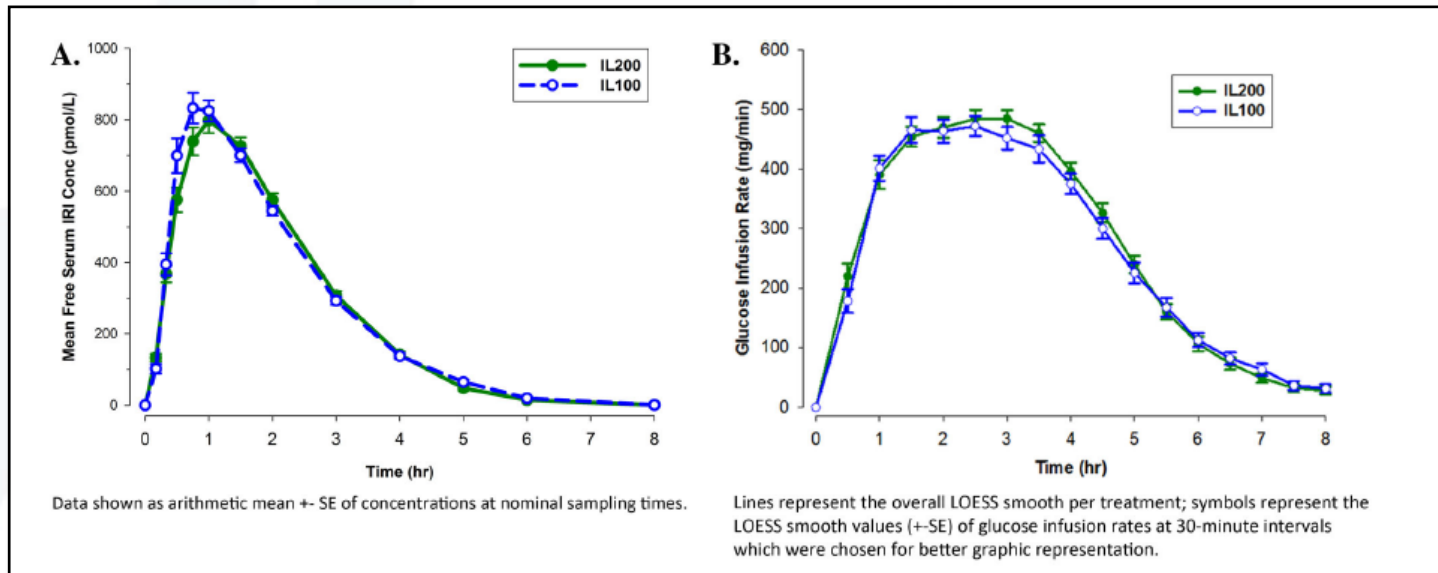
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# Pivotal Insulin Studies

Journal: *Clinical Pharmacology in Drug Development (Electronic)* Oct 2015

**“Bioequivalence and Comparative Pharmacodynamics of Insulin Lispro 200 Units/ml**

**Relative to Insulin Lispro (Humalog®) 100 Units/ml”** Amparo de la Pena , Mary Seger , Danny Soon, Adam J. Scott, Shobha R. Reddy, Michael A. Dobbins, Patricia Brown-Augsburger, and Helle Linnebjerg



INDIANAPOLIS, May 27, 2015 /PRNewswire/ -- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Humalog® 200 units/mL KwikPen® (insulin lispro 200 units/mL; U-200), a pre-filled pen containing a concentrated formulation of Lilly's rapid-acting insulin Humalog® (insulin lispro 100 units/mL) Humalog U-200 KwikPen marks the first FDA approval of a concentrated mealtime insulin analog.

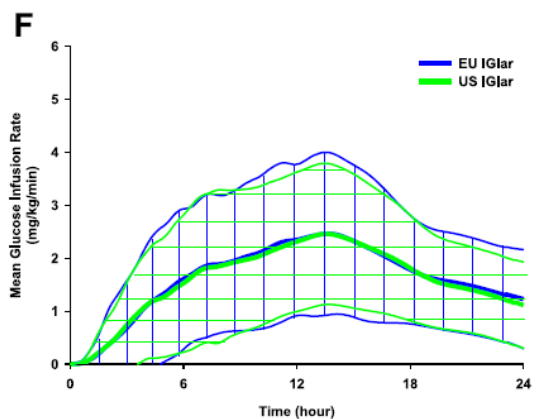
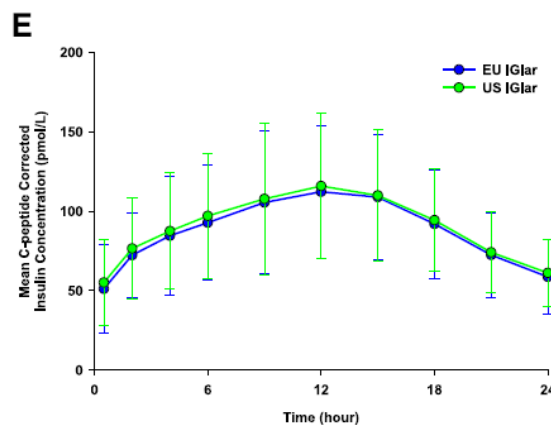
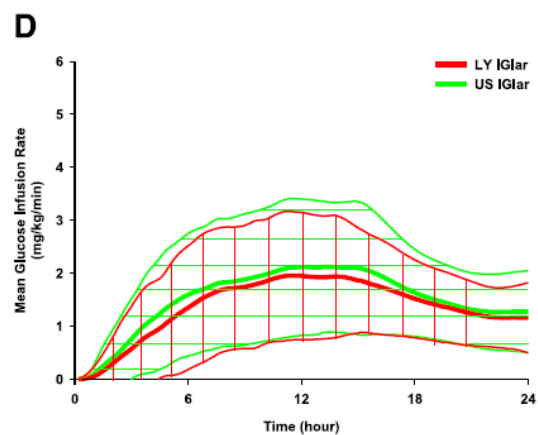
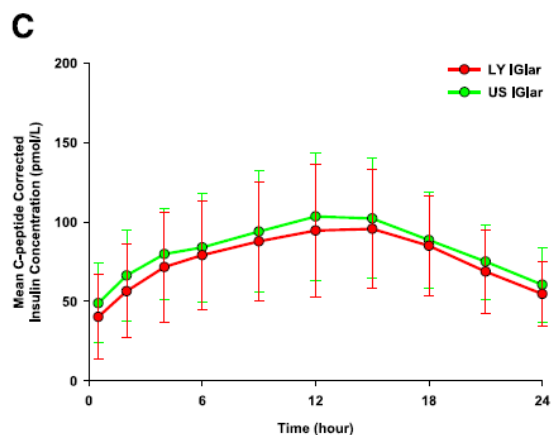
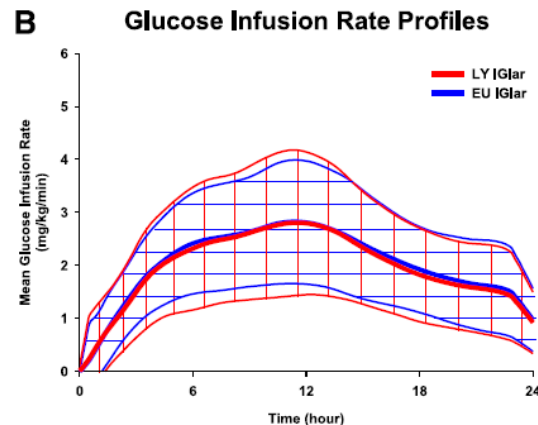
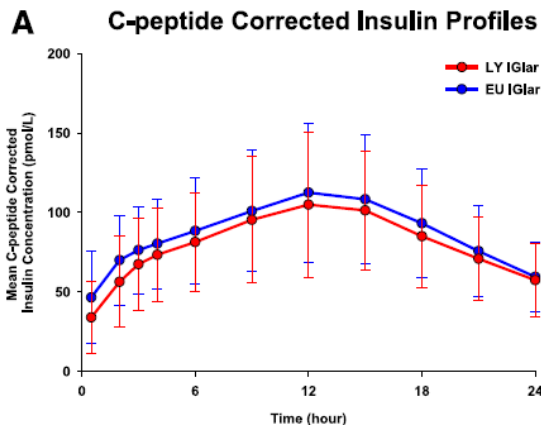


# Pivotal Insulin Studies

**Comparison of the Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics of LY2963016 Insulin Glargine and European Union- and U.S.-Approved Versions of Lantus Insulin Glargine in Healthy Subjects: Three Randomized Euglycemic Clamp Studies.**

Linnebjerg H, Lam EC, Seger ME, Coutant D, Chua L, Chong CL, Ferreira MM, Soon D, Zhang X. Diabetes Care. 2015 Aug 25. [Epub ahead of print]

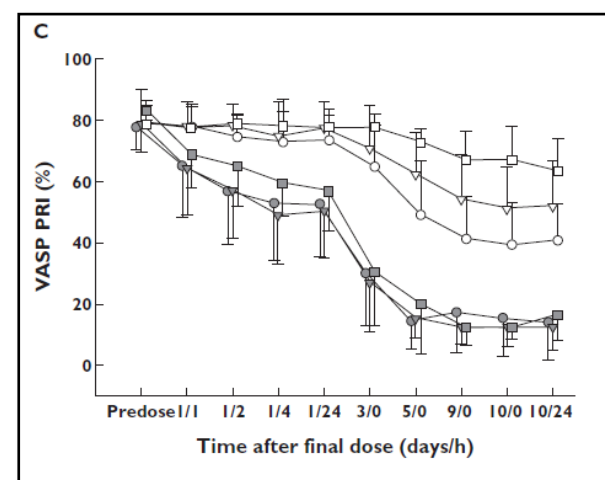
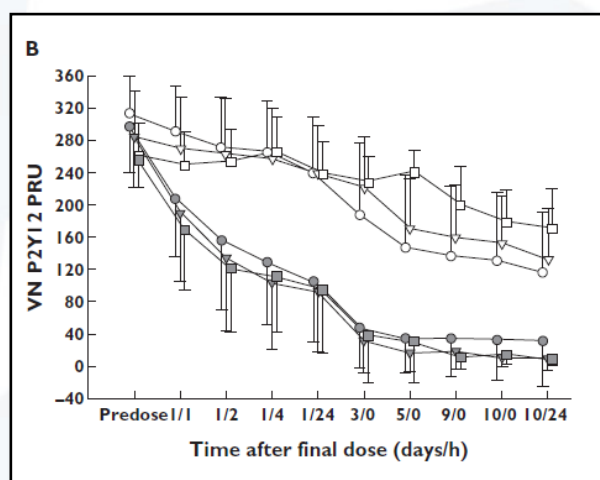
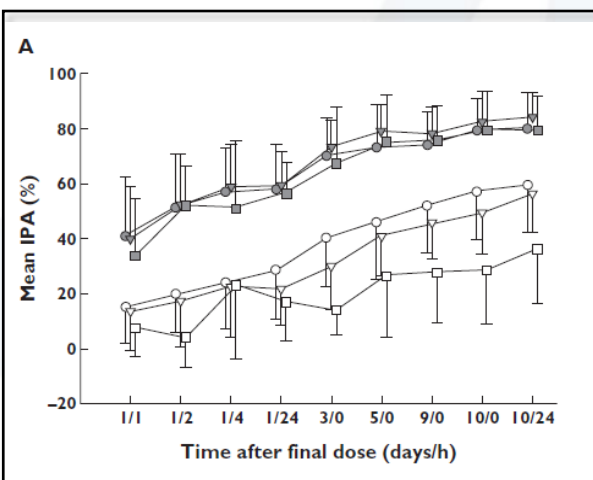
INDIANAPOLIS, Aug. 18, 2014 /PRNewswire/ -- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) today granted tentative approval for Basaglar™



# Interethnic/Phenotypic Comparisons

**Pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics following maintenance doses of prasugrel and clopidogrel in Chinese carriers of CYP2C19 variants.**

Kelly RP, Close SL, Farid NA, Winters KJ, Shen L, Natanegara F, Jakubowski JA, Ho M, Walker JR, Small DS. Br J Clin Pharmacol. 2012 Jan;73(1):93-105.



Prasugrel Label: In healthy subjects, patients with stable atherosclerosis, and patients with ACS receiving prasugrel, **there was no relevant effect of genetic variation in CYP2B6, CYP2C9, CYP2C19, or CYP3A5 on the pharmacokinetics of prasugrel's active metabolite or its inhibition of platelet aggregation.**

# Interethnic/Phenotypic Comparisons

## Comparison between 8 Asian Indians and 8 Chinese in Singapore

Single Dose of Warfarin 25mg, as part of DDI study

Genotyped for CYP2C9 (Warfarin PK), and VKORC1 (Warfarin PD)

Higher S-Warfarin Exposures in Indians due to CYP2C9 Intermediate Metaboliser status

**BUT**

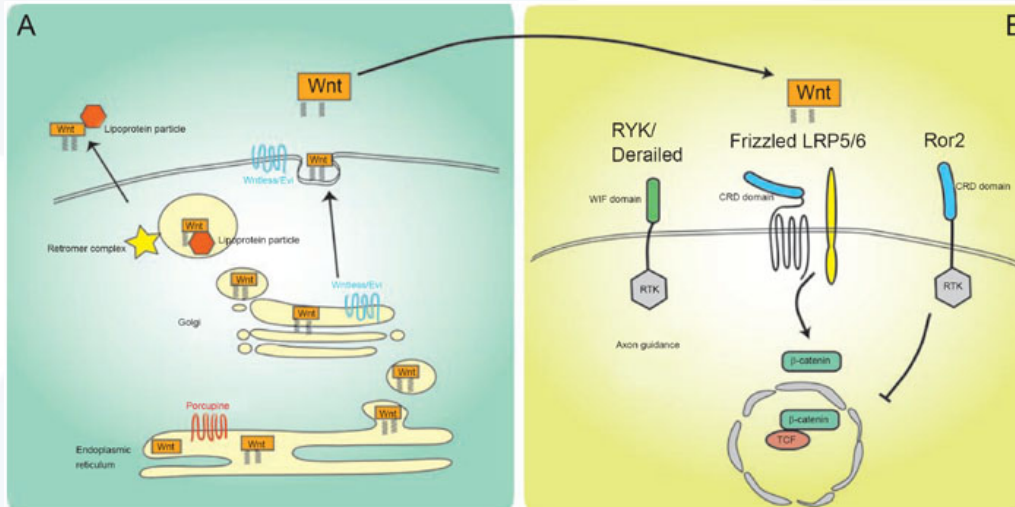
Lower INRs due to H7/H7 VKORC1 Haplotype (Warfarin Resistant)

**Ethnic differences in the population pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of warfarin.** Yuen E, Gueorguieva I, Wise S, Soon D, Aarons L. J Pharmacokinet Pharmacodyn. 2010 Feb;37(1):3-24.

# Wnt-Porcupine Inhibitor



**“A made-in-Singapore cancer drug has advanced into clinical trials” – June 2015**



**DUKE NUS**  
GRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL SINGAPORE



National Cancer  
Centre Singapore  
SingHealth

# Wnt-Porcupine Inhibitor

- “ETC-159, was developed in a collaboration between A\*STAR and Duke-NUS, and is expected to target a range of cancers, including colorectal, ovarian and pancreatic cancers.
- This is the first publicly-funded drug candidate discovered and developed in Singapore to advance into first-in-human trials

❖ Discovery Biology  
❖ Target Validation  
❖ Medicinal Chemistry

❖ Pre-clinical Development  
❖ Phase 1 FIH Study

**DUKE NUS**  
GRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL SINGAPORE



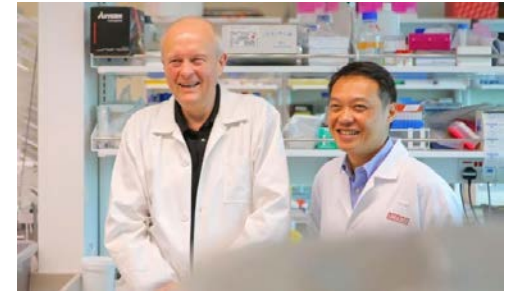
# Dengue Monoclonal Antibody



Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology

## “Engineered Antibody Neutralizes All Four Dengue Serotypes”

<http://www.asianscientist.com/2015/07/topnews/visterra-dengue-therapeutic-antibody-serotypes/>



CREATING GROWTH. ENHANCING LIVES.





# Dengue Monoclonal Antibody



Collaborative Research between

- Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology (SMART),
- Duke-NUS Graduate School of Medicine (Duke-NUS),
- National University of Singapore (NUS)
- Nanyang Technological University (NTU)
- Visterra Inc.
- A\*STAR/D3

**“The antibody is now being developed by Visterra, in partnership with D3 of A\*STAR for clinical trials next year (2016).”**



# Dengue Monoclonal Antibody



- Biology
- In-house animal infection model
- mAb design
- Cell lines, Manufacturing and scale up
- Pre-clinical development
- \*Clinical development

Leveraging on the 'brain trust' in Singapore





# Integrated Biomedical Research

## Niche and Specialty CROs and Technologies



## Early-phase Clinical Trial Units



## Big 5 CROs



## Regulatory and Ethical Review



## Drug Development Vehicles



## Hospitals, Specialty Institutes

*One of world's Top 10 Healthcare services*



## Academic Medical Centres

*Robust pipeline of clinician-scientist thought leaders*



# Summary

- Advanced Healthcare System
- Investment in Biomedical Research
- Pro – Industry Outlook
- Effective supporting functions

**Strong Ecosystem for Translational  
and Early Phase Clinical Research**

