

An elderly couple is walking through a forest with vibrant autumn foliage. The man is wearing a patterned sweater and a plaid scarf, while the woman is wearing a light-colored sweater and a yellow scarf. They are both smiling and holding hands. The background is a soft-focus view of trees with yellow and orange leaves.

# ASCELIA PHARMA

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## ONCORAL

### ADVANCING CHEMOTHERAPY

**CMO Carl Bjartmar**

January 2021

# I.V. IRINOTECAN IS AN ESTABLISHED CHEMOTHERAPY

## IRINOTECAN

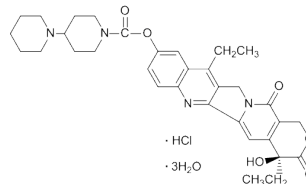
- **Established** chemotherapy with recognized anti-tumor effect (typically as high-dose IV infusion)
- **Approved for** metastatic colorectal and pancreatic cancer, and for gastric cancer in Japan (off-label use US/EU)
- **Demonstrated** clinical benefits and used in other solid cancer indications

## IV BOLUS INFUSION

TODAY



*Irinotecan Hydrochloride (IV)*



## ORAL, DAILY DOSING

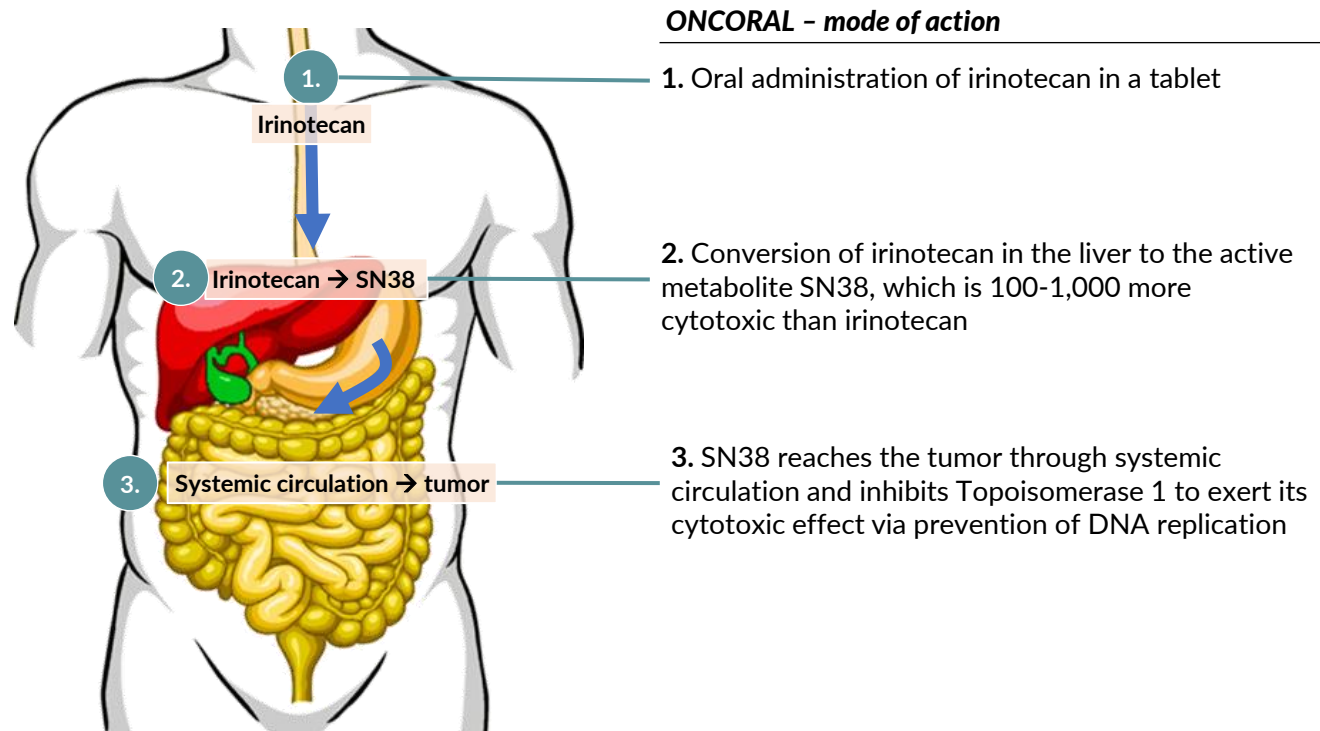
TOMORROW

*Oncoral is a novel oral formulation of irinotecan for daily dosing*



*Irinotecan (tablet formulation) solid composition with enteric coating*

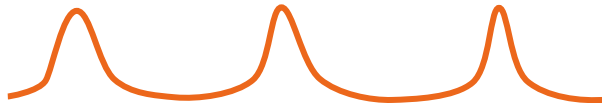
# NEW ORAL **IRINOTECAN TABLET** FORMULATION



# ORAL, DAILY DOSING: OPTIMIZING EFFICACY AND TOLERABILITY

## TODAY

### TOLERABILITY TRADE-OFF (IV BOLUS IRINOTECAN INFUSION)



#### Efficacy

Sub-optimal treatment outcomes for many cancer types

#### Tolerability

Hematological toxicity common, 30% severe or life threatening. Gastrointestinal adverse events common

#### Convenience

Time spent on uncomfortable hospital IV administration

#### Costs

Staff and equipment allocated to hospital IV administration

## TOMORROW

### OPTIMIZING EFFICACY AND TOLERABILITY (POTENTIAL OF ORAL, DAILY DOSING)



Improved efficacy driven by favorable, dosing-related, pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic profile

Improved tolerability, less severe side effects, and possibility to manage toxicity by flexible dosing

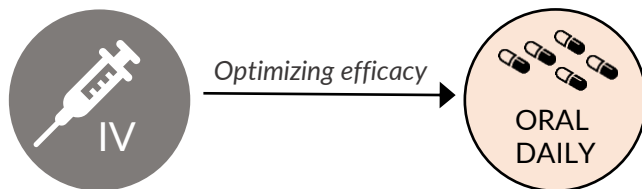
Reduced burden and increased comfort of home administration

Cost-effective home dosing with less hospital visits

# OPTIMIZING EFFICACY

## OPTIMIZING EFFICACY BY DAILY DOSING

- After oral administration, 5-fold more irinotecan is converted to the active metabolite SN-38 compared to after IV infusion<sup>1</sup>
- Metronomic chemotherapy – frequent low dose administration – appears clinically beneficial in a broad range of tumors<sup>2</sup>
- Frequent dosing can optimize the chance that tumor cells are exposed to SN-38 during the susceptible S-phase of the cell cycle, maximizing anti-tumor effect



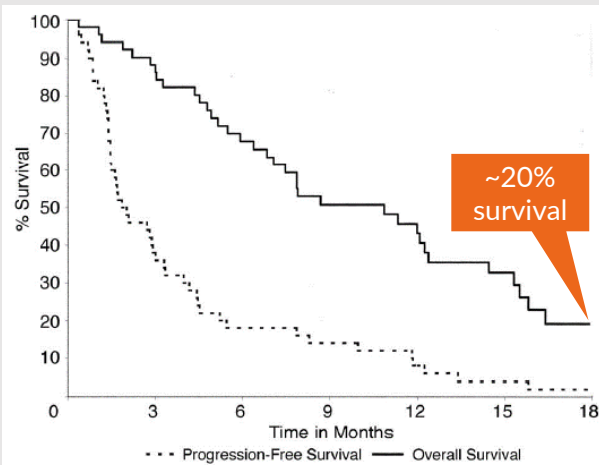
## PROOF-OF-PRINCIPLE

- **Pre-clinical:** Metronomic dosing of irinotecan on xenografts in mice were more effective than the usual higher dose<sup>3,4</sup>
- **Clinical:** Positive clinical results with frequent dosing in pediatric and adult patients which progressed on standard therapy, incl. IV irinotecan<sup>1,4,5</sup>
- **Oncoral:** Phase 1 results indicated activity (stable disease) even in patients previously treated with IV irinotecan<sup>1</sup>
- **Daily chemotherapy** is in practice only possible with a tablet for home treatment

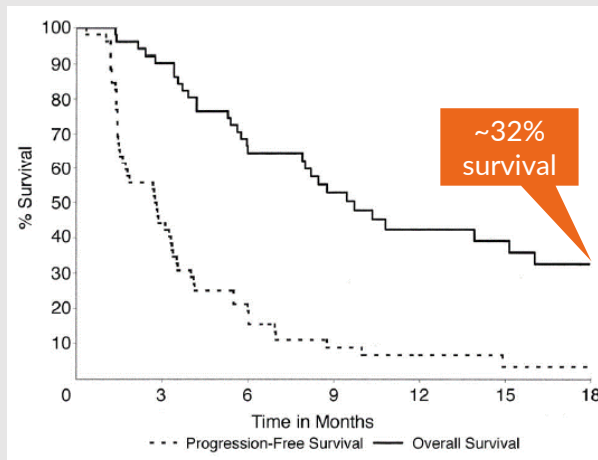
# IMPROVED OVERALL SURVIVAL WITH MORE FREQUENT DOSING

## STUDY COMPARING IRINOTECAN DOSING EVERY THIRD WEEK VS. WEEKLY DOSING<sup>1</sup>

### Dosing every 3 weeks (IV)



### Weekly dosing (IV)



### Conclusions

Overall survival improved from 20% with irinotecan dosing every 3 weeks to 32% with weekly dosing

Study in patients with metastatic refractory breast cancer, N=103

1) Perez et al. J Clin Oncol 2004: Randomized Phase II Study of Two Irinotecan Schedules for Patients With Metastatic Breast Cancer Refractory to an Anthracycline, a Taxane, or Both

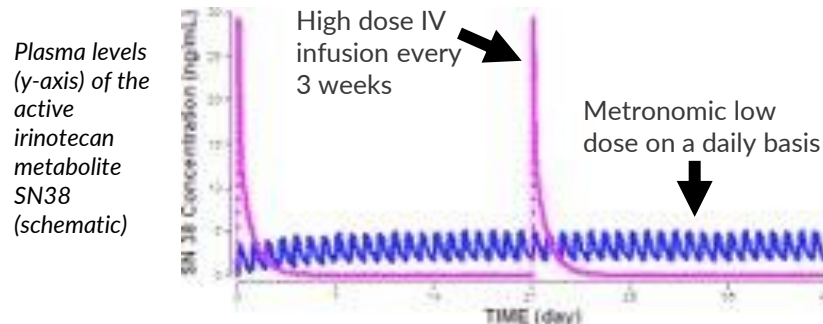
# OPTIMIZING TOLERABILITY

## OPTIMIZING TOLERABILITY BY DAILY DOSING

- Bolus IV infusions of irinotecan are associated with toxicity
- Most patients experience gastrointestinal and haematological side effects, approximately 30% severe or life-threatening (grade 3 or 4)<sup>1</sup>
- Metronomic dosing may reduce peak related toxicity and complications compared to high-dose infusions
- Oral daily administration brings the opportunity to adjust dosing quickly in case of acute toxicity

## PROOF-OF-PRINCIPLE

- **Pre-clinical:** Metronomic irinotecan dosing of xenografts in mice were less toxic than more intense schedules<sup>2,3</sup>
- **Clinical:** More frequent, low-dose, irinotecan regimens showed improved tolerability in several clinical studies<sup>3,4</sup>
- **Oncoral Phase 1 results<sup>5</sup>:**
  - ✓ Oncoral was well tolerated and safe with no unexpected side-effects
  - ✓ Hematological toxicities mild to moderate (grade 1 or 2)







# CLINICAL DEVELOPMENT

MOVING ONCORAL INTO PHASE 2

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# PHASE 1 – ENCOURAGING CLINICAL RESULTS

## PHASE 1 SINGLE AGENT STUDY<sup>1</sup>

### Study:

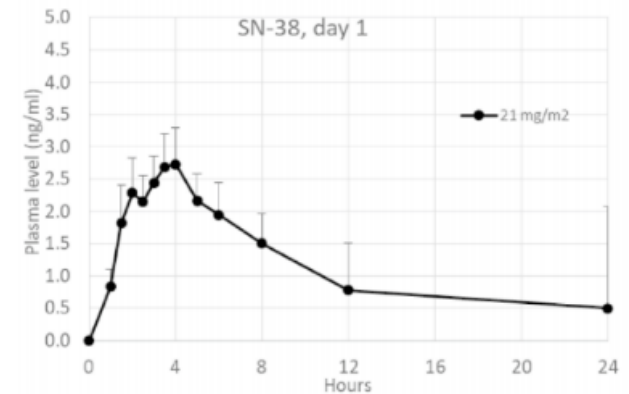
Dose escalating, open label, single center  
25 patients with metastatic or unresectable solid tumors

### Key results:

- Hematological toxicities were few and all mild (grade 1) to moderate (grade 2)
- Pharmacokinetic (PK) data showed consistent daily exposures during treatment at days 1 and 14 with no drug accumulation
- The active metabolite, SN-38, interpatient variability was in the same range as for IV administration

### Pharmacokinetic plasma profiles of SN-38

(mean values, n=15)



## PHASE 1 COMBINATION STUDY<sup>2</sup>

### Study:

Open label, single center  
14 patients with metastatic or unresectable solid tumors

### Key results:

The combination of Oncoral with another oral chemotherapy, demonstrated reassuring tolerability which could enable an all-oral chemotherapy combination





1) Kümler et al. Cancer Chemother Pharmacol. 2019 Jan;83(1):169-178, 2) Kümler et al. Cancer Chemother Pharmacol. 2019 Aug;84(2):441-446.

## PHASE 2 – STUDY IN PREPARATION

### OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF PHASE 2 STUDY:

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- Establish clinical proof-of-concept in metastatic gastric cancer
  - Potential orphan drug designation
  - Clinical guidelines support efficacy of irinotecan
  - Potential for subsequent label expansion to other solid tumor indications
- Generate compelling Phase 2 data package for further development

<b>Type of study</b> 	Randomized controlled, multicentre, multinational study of: Oncoral + Standard of Care <u>vs.</u> Standard of Care
<b>Endpoints</b> 	<b>Primary:</b> Progression Free Survival <b>Secondary:</b> Response rate, PK, safety and OS data in a follow up analysis
<b>No. of patients</b> 	Approximately 100 patients
<b>Study period</b> 	H2 2021 – 2024

# ONCORAL SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

## **Prof Josep Tabernero, MD, PhD**

Head of the Medical Oncology Department at the Vall d'Hebron Barcelona Hospital Campus, Director of the Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology (VHIO), and Professor of Medicine

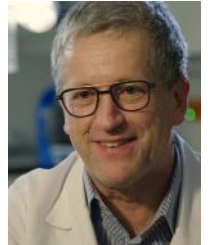
President (2018 – 2019) of ESMO and an Executive Board and Council Member



## **Prof Eric Van Cutsem, MD, PhD**

Professor and Division Head of Digestive Oncology at University of Leuven (KUL) and University Hospitals Gasthuisberg, Leuven, Belgium

Co-founded ESMO GI/World Congress on GI Cancer. Serves/served on the board/committee of ESMO, ASCO, ENET, EORTC, ECCO, ESDO



## **Prof Jaffer A Ajani, MD**

Department of Gastrointestinal Medical Oncology, Division of Cancer Medicine, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, USA

Chairs the NCCN committee for gastroesophageal cancers



## **Prof Jeff Evans, MD**

Professor of Translational Cancer Research and Clinical Lead of the Institute of Cancer Sciences, University of Glasgow

Member of the NCRN Upper GI Cancer Pancreatic Cancer and Gastro-Oesophageal Cancer sub-groups



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*Joint view that Oncoral would be an important treatment option for cancer patients, especially in later disease stages*

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