

## Gene Therapy for Neurodegenerative Diseases

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June 2018

## **Neurodegenerative diseases targeted by Brainvectis**

### Huntington's disease (HD):

- 60 000 patients in Europe
- leads to death after 15-20 years

## Alzheimer's disease (AD):

- > 35 millions patients today
- 115 millions in 2050

#### **Spino-Cerebellar Ataxias (SCA)**

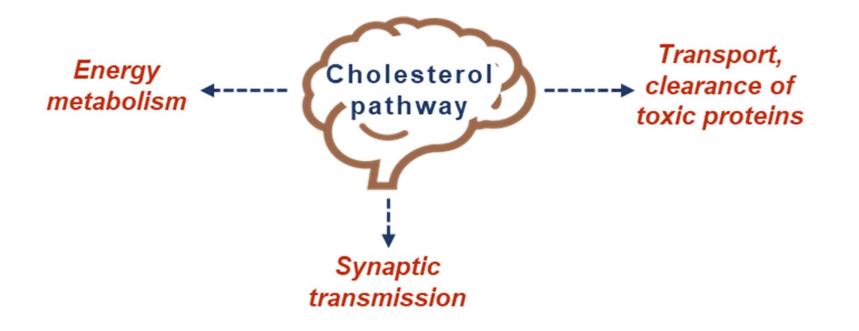
- Rare disease, 3/100 000
- Ataxia, severe disability

### **Other rare diseases**





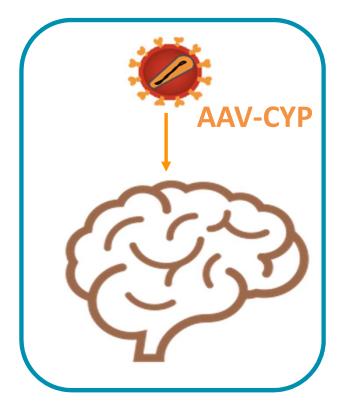
We restore **cholesterol pathway in the brain**, a key mechanism which is impaired in neurodegenerative diseases.





## **Therapeutic strategy (2)**

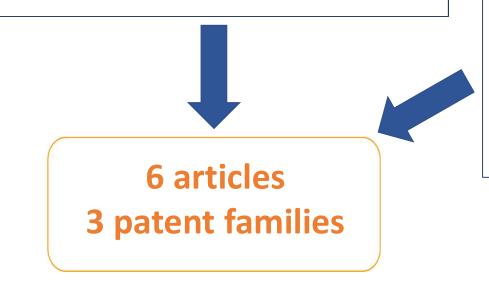
- Target **CYP46**, the key enzyme to normalize brain cholesterol level
- Overexpress CYP46 in specific disease brain areas
- By gene therapy
- Using an AAV vector
- One-time administration





# **CYP46** validated as a relevant therapeutic target

Converging results in patients and in mouse models of the diseases



# Proof of concept obtained with AAV-CYP46

- 2 animal models of HD
- 4 models of AD
- 2 models of SCA
- Other PoC on going.



## **Results obtained: Highlights**

## AAV-CYP46

- Restores cholesterol metabolism
- Decresases toxic protein aggregates: Amyloïd (AD), Tau (AD), Huntingtin (HD)
- Prevents neuronal death, cerebral atrophy and memory deficits
- Corrects coordination and behavior defects
- In a dose dependent manner



#### Time to clinic : 2 years for Huntington

	Target validation	Proof of concept	Primate studies	Regulatory preclinical studies	Clinical phase 1/2
HUNTINGTON		2 mouse models		2018	2020
ALZHEIMER		4 mouse models			
SC ATAXIA		2 mouse models	2018		
Rare dis. N					
Rare dis. R		2018			
Rare dis. A		2018			

• 2M€ raised up to now + 1,1 M€ grants and public aids



## **Brainvectis core team**

- Jérôme Becquart, PhD CEO sanofi aventis
- Nathalie Cartier, MD Inserm, CSO 🌐 Inserm
- Sandro Alves, PhD director preclinical research
- LS, PhD Project leader Huntington, non-clinical development
- Alexandra Durr, MD, PhD, clinical ref. center HD and SCA, Paris
- Anne-Catherine Bachoud-Lévi, MD, PhD, clinical ref. center HD, Paris
- Michel Zerah, MD neurosurgeon, Necker Hospital, Paris
- Nicolas Ferry, MD, PhD, Regulatory consultant ans



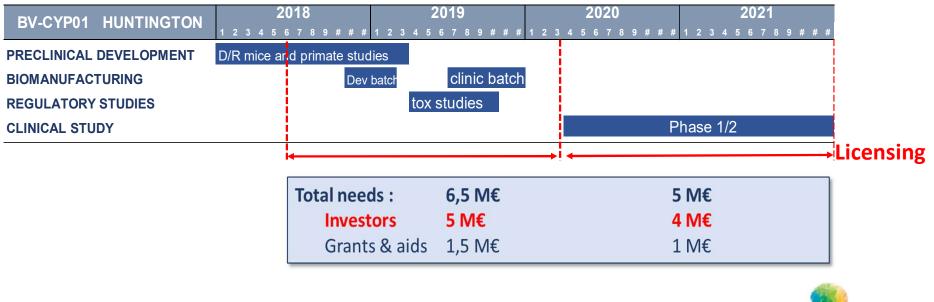




#### **Business model**:

- Set up a Gene Therapy platform for neurodegenerative diseases
- License to Pharma after clinical proof of concept: in 2022 for Huntington

**Needs :** 9M€ to finance clinical proof of concept in Huntington's disease (pre-money valuation: 10M€)





## **Gene Therapy: a favorable environment**

- Increasing investments: \$4.5 Billion in 2017
- IPO: AveXis (2016), Audentes (2016), Gensight (2016), Cellectis (2016), Lysogene (2017)
- Industrial deals: Isis/Roche, Voyager/Sanofi-Genzyme, Spark/Pfizer, Bamboo/Pfizer, Sangamo / Pfizer, AveXis/Novartis (8,7 MM\$, may 18)



- On the market: Glybera (LPLD, UniQure 2012), Strimvelis (ADA-SCID, GSK 2016), Zalmoxis (GVHD, Molmed 2016), Imlygic (Melanoma, Amgen 2016), Luxterna (Retinal disease, Spark 2017)
- Clinical trials: 313 in 2017: 113 (Ph. I), 170 (Ph. II), 30 (Ph. III)
- Encouraging clinical results for : adreno-leukodystrophy, hemophilia, spinal amyotrophy, Parkinson disease, retinal disseases,...

Brainvectis targets cholesterol metabolism in the brain to treat neurodegeneratives diseases

Validated approach

**Curative Therapy** 

**One time administration** 

For multiple neurodegenerative conditions

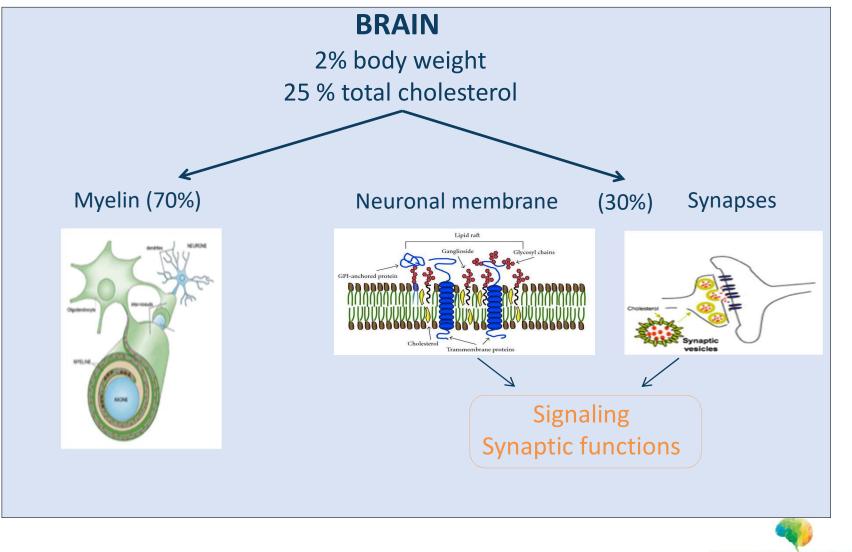
We are 2 years from the clinic in Huntington's disease



## Backup slides



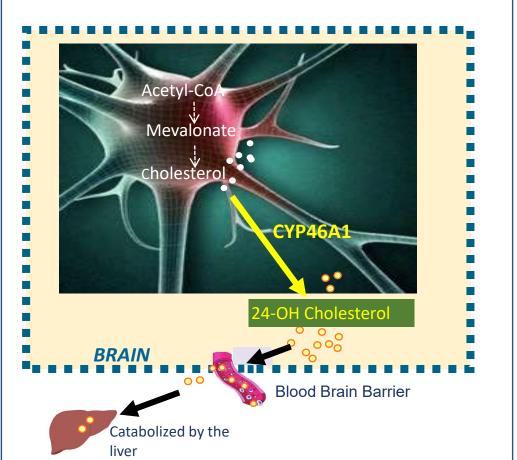
## **Brain cholesterol is essential to neuronal functions**





## CYP46A1, a key brain enzyme

- CYP46A1 controls membrane cholesterol removal from the brain<sup>1</sup>
  - CYP46A1 converts cholesterol into 24-OHcholesterol
  - Cholesterol cannot cross the blood brain barrier, 24-OH cholesterol does
- **CYP46A1** is brain specific<sup>1</sup>
- CYP46A1 is a major stress response factor in the brain (aging, oxidative stress, neurotoxic conditions, aggregates)<sup>2</sup>





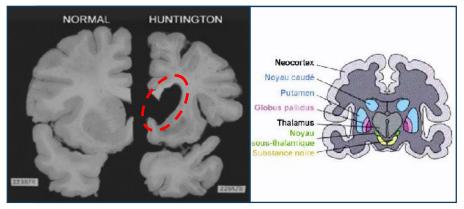
#### **Converging results validate CYP46A1 as a relevant therapeutic target**

- **CYP46A1 is decreased** in affected regions of the brain in patients and mouse models of neurodegenerative diseases<sup>1-4</sup>
- Cholesterol precursors are decreased in the brain of patients and mice models
- **CYP46A1 inhibition** in specific brain regions mimics disease phenotype in normal mice<sup>1-4</sup>
- CYP46A1 polymorphism was associated with increased risk for AD <sup>5</sup> and retinal diseases (AMD, glaucoma)<sup>8</sup>
- CYP46A1 KO mice show cognitive defects <sup>6</sup>
- **CYP46A1 improves cognition** in aged transgenic mice <sup>7</sup>
  - 1- Hudry et al Mol Ther 2010
  - 2- Burlot et al Hum Mol Gen 2015
  - 3- Dielti et al Brain 2015
  - 4- Boussicault et al Brain 2016
- 5- Russell et al Annu. Rev. Biochem. 2009
- 6- Kotti et al PNAS 2006, 2008
- 7- Maioli et al PloS One 2013
- 8- Bretillon et al Invest. Ophtal. 2005

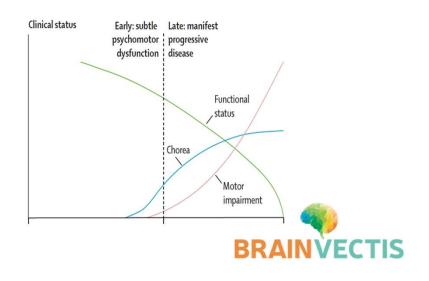
#### Huntington's disease is a chronic, progressive and irreversible condition

- HD is an autosomal dominant genetic disease (1/10.000).
- HD affects adults (30 to 50 years) and leads to death 15 to 20 years after disease onset.
- HD is caused by an elongated CAG repeat (> 36 repeats) in the Huntingtin gene leading to abnormal polyglutamine (polyQ) accumulation in the mutant Huntingtin (muHTT) protein.
- HD is caused by both accumulation of muHTT and deficit of normal HTT.

#### HD leads to progressive loss of medium spiny neurons



Ross, Tabrizi, lancet neurol 2011



## **Intellectual property**

- BrainVectis has obtained a worldwide exclusive license to use AAV-CYP46A1 to treat Alzheimer's disease and Huntington's diseases.
- Both patents have been granted in Europe and in the US.
- We filed in January 2017 an application for polyQ Ataxias
- FTO analysis : no licensing agreement for our AAV vector is needed since they will be in the public domain at NDA time.

#### Huntington

- PCT/EP2011/068033, priority 15 Oct 2010
- US 9,132,173 granted
- EP 2 627 359 granted, national phase in 12 countries: FR,GE,UK,ES,IT,BE,LU,CH,IRL,NT,FI,HO

#### Alzheimer

- PCT/EP2008/062047, priority 12 Sept 2007
- US 8,198,257 B2 granted
- EP 2 187 898 granted, national phase in 12 countries: FR,GE,UK,ES,IT,BE,LU,CH,IRL,NT,FI,HO

