# THERAPEUTICS

### **Topical BET Inhibitor (VYN201) Preclinical Study Update**

November 10, 2021

## ROOTED IN INNOVATION

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#### VYN201: Comparable Efficacy to Superpotent Steroid Clobetasol in a TH17-Mediated Murine Inflammation Model; Potential for Greater Tolerability

Dorsal depilated BALB-C mice were dosed topically for 14 days with 100mg topical IMI cream (Day 1-7: induction phase, Day 8-14: treatment phase). N=4 animals were assigned to each treatment group with each group receiving 100mg of allocated treatment on Day 8-14 once daily



- Dose dependent response was observed over the VYN201 concentration range 0.001% to 0.1%
- There was a 94% reduction in composite score for VYN201 0.1% relative to vehicle control group at Day 7
- VYN201 0.1% had comparable efficacy to clobetasol propionate 0.05% cream
- Animals treated with VYN201 0.1% continued to gain body weight in a similar manner to healthy control group treated with vehicle
- Clobetasol cream 0.05% group had a 17% reduction in body weight compared to the VYN201 0.1% group at treatment day 7



IMI – Imiquimod.

\*Composite Inflammation Severity Score is a composite mean score of erythema and peeling severity scored on a 4-point ordinal scale per domain (0=none, 1=mild, 2=moderate and 3=severe for a

maximum score of 6), data expressed as a mean percentage change from initiation of treatment phase.

#### **VYN201:** Dose-Dependent Reduction in Pro-Inflammatory Biomarkers in TH17-Mediated Murine Inflammation Model Indicates Target Engagement

Dorsal depilated BALB-C mice were dosed topically for 14 days with 100mg topical IMI cream (Day 1-7: induction phase, Day 8-14: treatment phase). N=4 animals were assigned to each treatment group with each group receiving 100mg of allocated treatment on Day 8-14 once daily



- Strong correlation between improvement in clinical severity scores and reduction in many proinflammatory biomarkers relevant to Th17-mediated autoimmune diseases
- Dose-dependent reduction in biomarker expression was observed with VYN201 0.1% as having the greatest effect
- IL1β, IL-6 and IL-23 precipitate the differentiation of naïve Th0 immune cells to Th17 cells
- Th17 cells produce a range of cytokines that drive inflammation in autoimmune diseases. These include IL17, IL36 and TNFa



#### VYN201: Normal Skin Physiology in TH17-Mediated Murine Inflammation Model Suggests VYN201 Well Tolerated (Day 7)



#### VYN201 Vehicle

• No appreciable improvement in clinical signs



#### VYN201 0.1%

- Substantial resolution of clinical signs
- Skin presents with normal physiology with no evidence of striae rubrae or atrophy
- No evidence suggestive of intolerance



#### **Clobetasol Cream 0.05%**

- Substantial resolution of clinical signs
- Significant evidence of dermal atrophy (clear presence of both rhytides/fine wrinkles and deep wrinkles)
- Marked dermal translucency and elastolysis



#### VYN201 Significantly Reduced Expression of Several Key Pro-Inflammatory Proteins Relevant to Th17-mediated Autoimmune Diseases in Human Tissue<sup>1</sup>



#### Interleukin 17-alpha

T-cells are polarized to Th1 and Th17 cells, the latter of which drives the production of IL17a which further upregulates the migratory action of pro-inflammatory cells and further inflammatory cell activation.

#### >95% Inhibition seen with assays for IL-36γ & LP-10

#### Interleukin 36-gamma

IL36 $\gamma$  is implicated in upregulating IL-17A signaling-related genes and so able to amplify keratinocyte inflammatory responses by promoting not only their own expression but also that of other cytokines related to Th17 signaling

#### CXC motif chemokine ligand 10 (LP-10)

An inflammatory cell chemoattractant secreted in response to interferon gamma. LP-10 is significantly overexpressed in many autoimmune diseases (>25-fold) vs. healthy skin<sup>1</sup>



1. Data on file. Results presented from qPCR analysis of processed and Th17-stimulated ex vivo human skin tissue based on a method derived from Garrett S.M., Zhao Q., and Feghali-Bostwick C. (2019) Induction of a Th17 phenotype in human skin – a mimic of dermal inflammatory diseases, *Methods and Protocols*, 2, 45

# VYN201: Demonstrated Anti-Fibrotic Activity without Delay in Healing Time in Murine Skin Healing Model

Female hairless mice (n=4/group) had two identical 10mm incisions made either side of the flank. Animals were topically dosed 1X daily with 100mg VYN201 vehicle, VYN201 1% or a hydroalcoholic gel\* until each wound had completely healed



- Statistically significant difference in composite global external healing score for VYN201 vehicle and 1% compared to Hydroalcoholic gel
- Complete healing occurred for VYN201 1% and VYN201 vehicle approximately 5 days earlier compared to Hydroalcoholic gel (Mean day to heal:15.5 vs. 21 days)



 Animals treated with VYN201 1% had statistically significant less tissue mass/fibrosis compared to VYN201 vehicle or Hydroalcoholic gel, indicative of the known anti-fibrotic mechanism for BET inhibition



- \*A negative control known to delay wound healing
- Global External Lesion Score is a composite severity score of lesion length, width, swelling and visibility
- Fibrotic tissue mass is scored on a 4-point severity scale: 0=No tissue mass; 1=small tissue mass; 2=moderate tissue mass; 3=large tissue mass

#### VYN201: Little Evidence of Residual Swelling and Macular Wound Appearance in Murine Skin Healing Model







#### VYN201 Vehicle

 Still evidence of minor swelling around incision sites

#### VYN201 1%

- Little evidence of residual swelling
- Wound appears more macular in nature compared to VYN201 vehicle or the hydroalcoholic gel
- Incision sites appear less distinct and leave a more aesthetic outcome compared to other treatments

#### Hydroalcoholic gel

- Moderate swelling clearly evident at end of treatment
- Although healed, residual scabbing still remains
- Incision sites clearly visible



#### **Summary of Preclinical Studies**

- VYN201 significantly reduced the expression of several key pro-inflammatory cytokines relevant to Th17-mediated autoimmune diseases
- VYN201 demonstrated improvement in reducing fibrotic tissue mass and overall skin repair outcomes
- Key highlights from the preclinical studies:
  - VYN201 exhibited anti-inflammatory effect similar to super-potent glucocorticosteroids.
  - VYN201 appeared well-tolerated in mice, as seen through animal body weight and skin condition.
  - VYN201 also demonstrated stronger inhibition of key Th17 cytokines in ex vivo data with human skin tissue when directly compared to JAK1/2 inhibitor, ruxolitinib.
  - VYN201, demonstrated improvements in reducing fibrotic tissue mass and overall skin repair outcomes with no negative impact on healing time. The results support the continued progression of VYN201 development program.

