

### Combination of Whole Liver Single Cell RNA Sequencing and Spatial Transcriptomics Reveals Specific Cell Sub-Populations and Pathways Regulated by CCL24

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# CCL24 is a Novel Therapeutic Target for Fibrosis



Critical Mediator Promoting Inflammation and Fibrosis



#### Dual role in promoting fibrosis

- directly activates fibroblasts
- enhances local immune cell recruitment

#### $\checkmark$

#### Unique and differentiated activity

- ex vivo and in vivo data confirms unique role vs other CCLs
- correlates with disease outcome and fibrotic biomarkers



#### Minor expression in healthy tissue

- significantly elevated in liver, skin, lung fibrotic tissue
- wide therapeutic margin

#### Positive feedback loop potentiates tissue damage

- responsible for initiation and perpetuation of fibrosis

# CM-101: First-in-Class mAb Blocking CCL24





CM-101 attenuates inflammation and fibrosis by inhibiting immune cell recruitment and fibroblast activation





- Chronic bile duct inflammatory and fibrotic disease leading to end-stage liver disease and cirrhosis
- 70% of PSC patients have concomitant inflammatory bowel disease
- No FDA approved drug
- Median Survival of 10-12 years with no intervention
- **~70K PSC** patients in 7 major markets
- **Orphan Drug Designation** granted for PSC by FDA and EMA



https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/primary-sclerosing-cholangitis

## CCL24 and CCR3 are Highly Expressed in PSC Patients' Liver Biopsies



- High CCL24 expression in biliary epithelial cells (BEC) and immune cells (including macrophages)
- High CCR3 expression in BEC, immune cells and hepatic stellate cells (HSC)
- High serum CCL24 levels correlate with fibrosis stage (ELF)

PanCK – BEC

Iba1 – macrophages

aSMA – fibroblasts









#### CCL24 / Iba1



#### αSMA / CCR3



# CM-101 Decreases Liver Fibrosis and Biliary Mass in the Mdr2<sup>-/-</sup> PSC Model



- Mdr<sup>2-/-</sup> mice develop similar PSC features in terms of cholangitis, severe ductular reaction and fibrosis 0
- CM-101 (D8) treatment (10 mg/kg) reduces serum levels of ALP, bile acids and ALT 0

PanCK – BEC

CM-101 (D8) treatment (10 mg/kg) reduces liver levels of collagen, Timp1, biliary mass and liver macrophages 0





### Studying CCL24 Pathways Using Two Complementary High-Throughput Methods



scRNA-seq of Mdr2<sup>-/-</sup> Liver Identifies Five Populations of Mononuclear Phagocytes











PanCK – BEC F4/80 - macrophages



N = 12 ROIs, 4 mice



### Combination of scRNA-seq and Spatial Transcriptomics Identifies Kupffer Cells in the njured Peribiliary Area





scRNA-seq



KC – Kupffer cells Mono – monocytes Mo-MF – monocytes-derived macrophages DC – dendritic cells

#### **Spatial Transcriptomics**



### C CM-101 Reduces Type 2 Dendritic Cells in the **Peribiliary Area**



Non-cholangiocytes

cells

cells



scRNA-seq

#### **Spatial Transcriptomics** (cell deconvolution)



NanoString cell-type gene signature, based on ImmGen classification

### CM-101 Reduces Macrophage and Monocyte Recruitment to the Peribiliary Area





scRNA-seq

Spatial Transcriptomics (cell deconvolution)



NanoString cell-type gene signature, based on ImmGen classification



## CCL24 is Expressed by Two Resident Liver Macrophage Populations



### CM-101 Treatment Reduces ECM Formation Pathways in Peribiliary PanCK- Populations





#### **Gene Set Enrichment Analysis**















Mitosis pathways



#### **Gene Set Enrichment Analysis**

# CM-101 Treatment Reduces Expression of Inflammatory and ECM Genes in Cholangiocytes





Mdr2 -/-CM-101





- Combination of single-cell and spatial transcriptomics methods enabled in depth analysis of relevant subpopulations and pathways
- Kupffer-cells and a novel population of resident-like macrophages identified as CCL24 main secreting cells
- Resident macrophages were found in injured peribiliary area
- CM-101 reduced monocyte and macrophage presence
- CM-101 decreased cholangiocyte senescence and proliferation
- CM-101 inhibited induction of inflammation and fibrosis by cholangiocytes
- CM-101 interferes with the core pathways of sclerosing cholangitis in experimental model
- A CM-101 Phase 2 trial in PSC patients is currently ongoing









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# Thank you

