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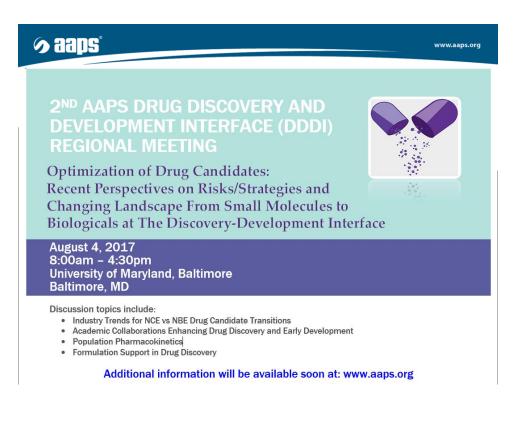




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### Thursday, April 27, 2017



### Being A Successful Scientist: Lessons in Self-Fulfillment

Darren Griffin, Professor of Genetics, University of Kent, UK Patricia Simpson, Director of Academic Advising and Career Services, School of Chemical Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

### Thursday, May 4, 2017



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## CYSTIC FIBROSIS: DISCOVERY OF CFTR MODULATORS



Peter Grootenhuis, PhD Senior Director, Medicinal Chemistry Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated San Diego, CA

American Chemical Society Webinar, April 20, 2017

## Outline

- 1. Cystic fibrosis: The disease
- 2. CFTR as a drug discovery target
- 3. Discovery of ivacaftor, a CFTR potentiator
- 4. Conclusions and perspective

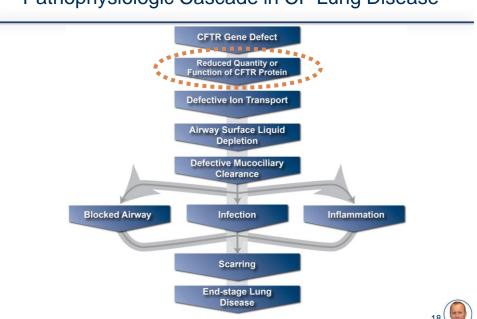




## 1) Cystic Fibrosis: The Disease

- Rare genetic disease that affects ~75,000 children and adults in the US and Europe<sup>1</sup>
- CF is caused by mutations in the cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (*CFTR*) gene
- Of the ~2000 CFTR mutations identified, F508del-CFTR is the most common CF-causing mutation
- Although clinical manifestations occur throughout the body, lung disease is the main cause of death<sup>2</sup>

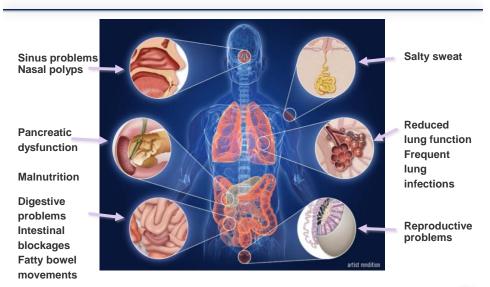
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Patient Registry. 2013 Annual Data Report. Bethesda, MD: CFF; 2014;
O'Sullivan BP, Freedman, SD. Lancet. 2009;373:1891-1904.
Reviewed in Van Goor F et al. Top Med Chem. 2006;3:91-120.



Reviewed in Van Goor F et al. Top Med Chem. 2008;3:91-120.

## Pathophysiologic Cascade in CF Lung Disease

## CF is a Multi Organ-Disease



Ramsey B et al. J Allergy Clin Immunol. 1992;90:547-552; Moskowitz SM et al. Genet Med. 2008;10:851-868; Weish MJ et al. Cystic Fibrosis: membrane transport disorders. In: Valle D et al., eds. The Online Metabolic & Moleclar Bases of Inherited Disease. The McGraw-Hill Companies Inc; 2004: part 21, chap 201. www.ommbid.com. 19

## From the Life of a Typical CF Patient

· Diagnosed as infant

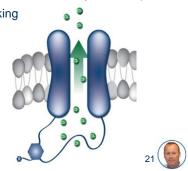
18<sup>th</sup> C German/Swiss literature: "Woe is the child who tastes salty from a kiss on the brow, for he is cursed and soon must die"

- High burden of disease:
  - Frequent hospitalization to treat reoccurring lung infection and inflammation
  - Daily drug regimen (50-75 pills/day)
    - Antibiotics, bronchodilators, DNAse enzymes, hypertonic saline, pancreatic enzymes
    - · Airway clearance therapy
  - Lung transplantation
  - Median life expectancy: 41 years

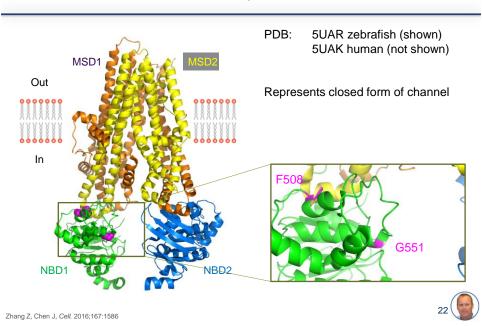


## 2) CFTR as a Drug Target

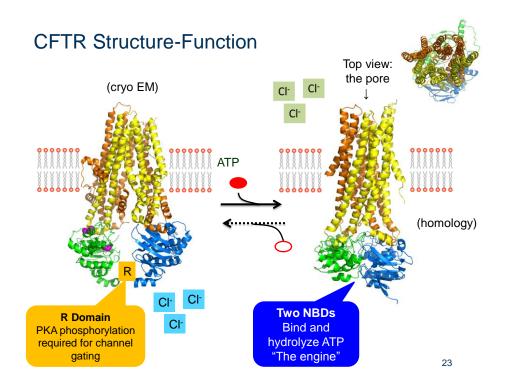
- Gene discovered in 1989
- 1480 aa ATP-binding ABC protein, regulated by cAMPdependent protein kinase A and ATP
- · Expressed in apical membrane of epithelia
- CFTR functions as a chloride channel
- F508del most common mutation (~90% of CF patients)
  - Primarily affects CFTR folding and trafficking
- G551D is a gating mutation
  - 4-5% of patients



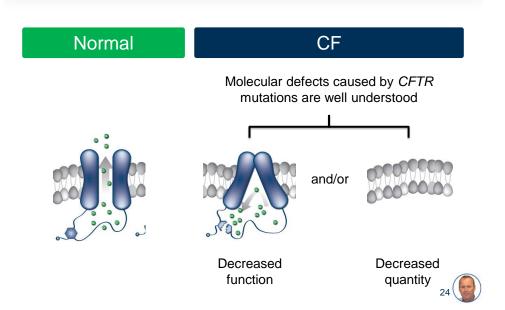
Rommens JM et al. Science. 1989;245:1059-1065.



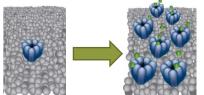
## CFTR Structure: First Cryo EM Structure



# CF Is Caused by Molecular Defects in the CFTR Chloride Ion Channel



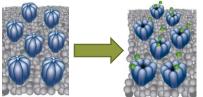
# CFTR Modulators Increase the Quantity and Function of CFTR at the Cell Surface



### **CFTR Correctors**

Facilitate increased chloride transport by increasing the quantity of CFTR delivered to the cell surface

e.g., Lumacaftor (VX-809)

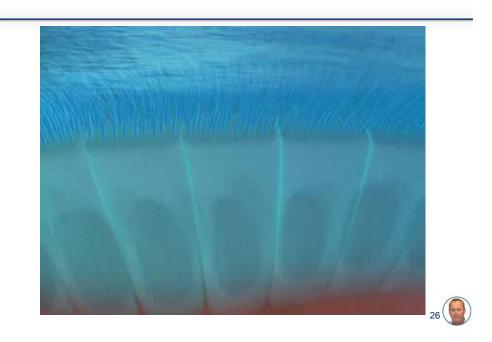


### **CFTR Potentiators**

Facilitate increased chloride transport by potentiating the channel-open probability (or gating) of the CFTR protein at the cell surface e.g., Ivacaftor (VX-770)

Total CFTR Activity= **Surface density** x **Open probability** x Conductance







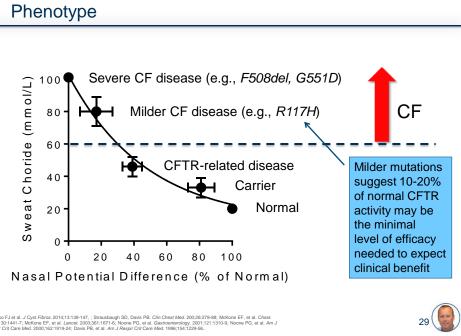
### Which statement is INCORRECT?

- A) A potentiator increases the open probability of the CFTR channel
- **B)** Potentiators and correctors can be used in combination to enhance mutant CFTR function
- C) G551D-CFTR is a so-called gating mutation
- D) Most CF patients have gating mutations

## Key Questions During 1998-2002 Period

- Is it possible to modulate CFTR presence and/or function with small molecules?
- · How to identify small molecule CFTR modulators?
- What is the best way to biologically profile modulators?
- What efficacy level in biological assays do we need to see to expect clinical efficacy?
- · What is the desired profile of a CFTR modulator drug?

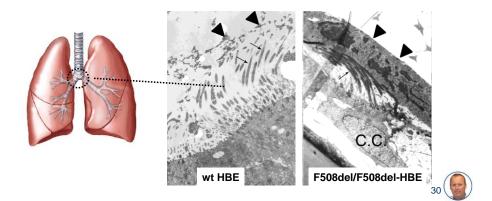




# Level of CFTR Dysfunction Linked to Disease Phenotype

### Human Bronchial Epithelial Cultures

- Cultured bronchial epithelia isolated from human tissue
- Differentiated epithelia show the same defective ion transport as observed in vivo
- Used as the pharmacology model for Vertex CFTR modulators

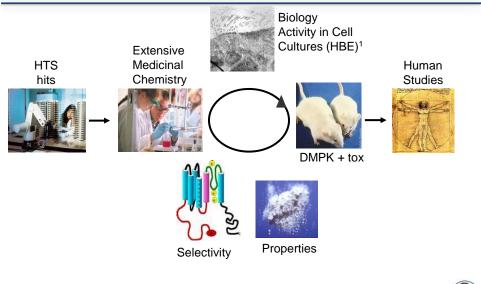




### How would you start a CFTR modulator program?

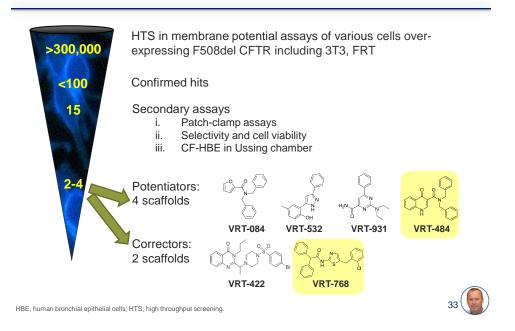
- A) Determine the 3D structure of CFTR and apply structurebased design
- **B)** Take a lead from the scientific or patent literature as a starting point
- C) Do HTS using phenotypic assays
- **D)** Try to repurpose existing drugs or advanced clinical candidates

## 3) Discovery of CFTR Potentiator Ivacaftor

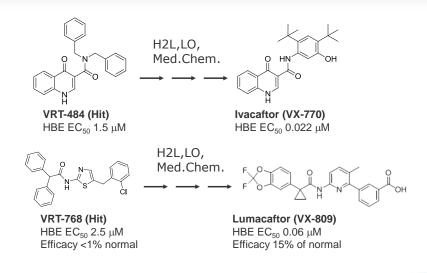




### Multiple HTS Campaigns for CFTR Modulator Hits

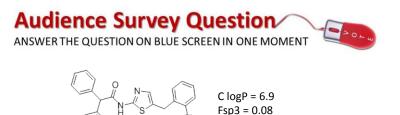


## From Hit to Drug: Extensive Medicinal Chemistry and SAR Efforts Required



EC<sub>50</sub>, half maximal effective concentration; SAR, structure-activity relationship. Van Goor F et al. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 2009;106:18825-18830. Van Goor F et al. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 2011;108:18843-18848.

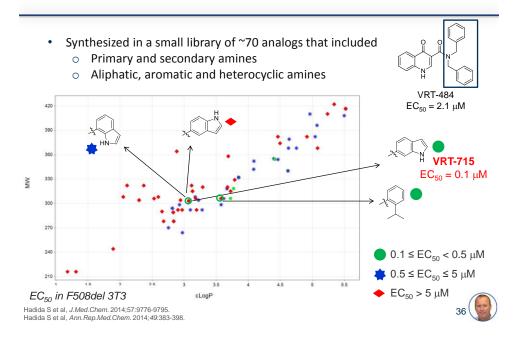




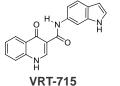
### What do you think when you see this hit?

- A) Compounds like this should not be in a screening deck
- B) Hit optimization will be a nightmare
- C) Let's continue screening for more lead-like hits
- D) Great. Let's start hit-to-lead optimization

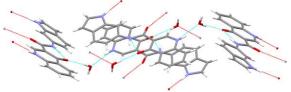
### Potentiator Hit: Amide Exploration Led To Potency Improvements



## VRT-715: Good Activity But Poor Properties



EC<sub>50</sub>= 0.1 μM F508del 3T3 EC<sub>50</sub>= 0.05 μM F508del HBE

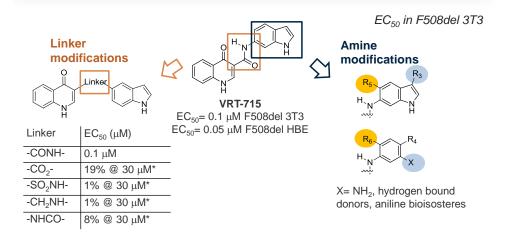


Extensive H-bonding and stacking in crystal structure: poor solubility (not detectable)

High iv CI in rats and dogs

Hadida S et al, *J.Med.Chem.* 2014;57:9776-9795. Hadida S et al, *Ann.Rep.Med.Chem.* 2014;49:383-398.

### MedChem Strategy Around VRT-715



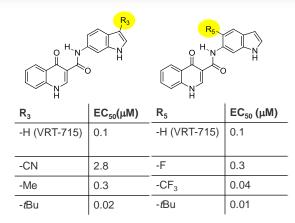
% activity of VRT-532 @ 30 μM Hadida S et al, *J.Med.Chem.* 2014;57:9776-9795. Hadida S et al, *Ann.Rep.Med.Chem.* 2014;49:383-398.

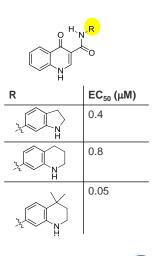


## Amide SAR: Bicyclic Analogs

EC<sub>50</sub> in F508del 3T3

Lipophilic substituents at indole positions 3 and 5 improve potency





• Alkyl substitutions detrimental at indole position 7, tolerated at 2 and 4

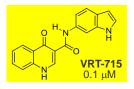
Hadida S et al, *J.Med.Chem.* 2014;57:9776-9795. Hadida S et al, *Ann.Rep.Med.Chem.* 2014;49:383-398.

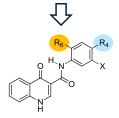
## Amide SAR: Monocyclic Analogs

EC<sub>50</sub> in F508del 3T3

39

Multiple chemotypes show sub-micromolar activity



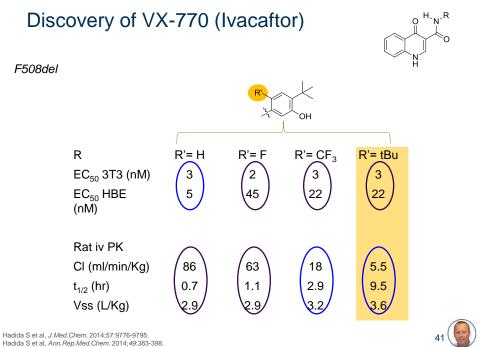


				I
R <sub>4</sub>	R <sub>6</sub>	X	EC <sub>50</sub> (μΜ)	
-Et	-H	-NH <sub>2</sub>	1.7	
-tBu	-H	-NH <sub>2</sub>	0.1	
-H	-tBu	-NH <sub>2</sub>	0.5	
- <i>t</i> Bu	-H	-H	0.1	
- <i>t</i> Bu	-H	-F	0.1	
- <i>t</i> Bu	-H	-NHCO <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	3.5	
- <i>t</i> Bu	-H	-SO <sub>2</sub> NH <sub>2</sub>	5.1	1
- <i>t</i> Bu	-H	-OH	0.003	] ]
- <i>t</i> Bu	-F	-OH	0.002	
- <i>t</i> Bu	-CF <sub>3</sub>	-OH	0.003	
- <i>t</i> Bu	- <i>t</i> Bu	-OH	0.003	

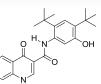
1700-fold !!!

Hadida S et al, *J.Med.Chem.* 2014;57:9776-9795. Hadida S et al, *Ann.Rep.Med.Chem.* 2014;49:383-398.





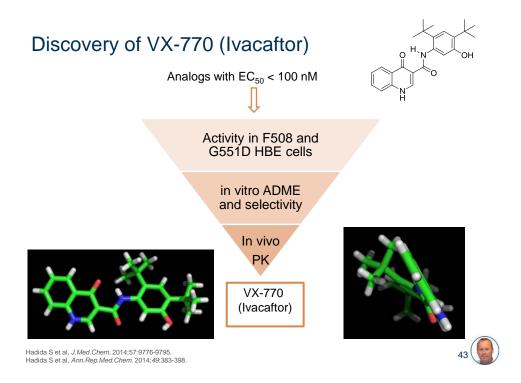
## VX-770 (Ivacaftor) Has a Favorable Animal PK Profile



		iv		ро
Species	Cl	t <sub>1/2</sub>	Vss	%F
	(mL/min/kg)	(hr)	(L/kg)	
Mouse	20.0	1.3	2.8	ND
Rat	5.5	9.5	3.6	55
Dog	0.7	13	0.7	43
Monkey	7.4	6.7	2.2	ND

ND, not determined Hadida S et al, *J.Med.Chem.* 2014;57:9776-9795. Hadida S et al, *Ann.Rep.Med.Chem.* 2014;49:383-398.





## **Ivacaftor Preclinical Profile**

- Potentiator, not activator
- In vitro activity against multiple genotypes<sup>1,2</sup>
  - On residual CFTR in F508del/F508del HBE: 22 nM
  - G551D/F508del HBE: 236 nM
- In vitro selectivity
- >99% plasma protein binding
- Favorable oral pharmacokinetics in rodents and non-rodents

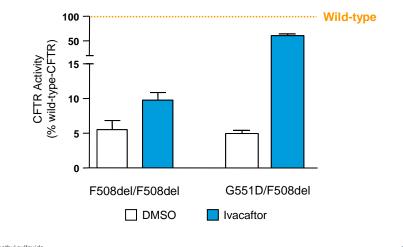


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Van Goor F et al. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 2009;106:18825-18830
Yu H et al. *J Cyst Fibros*. 2012;11:237-245.

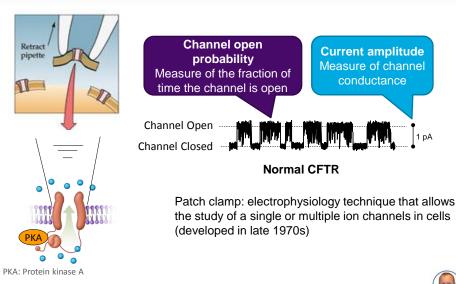
## Ivacaftor Increases G551D-CFTR Function In Vitro



Ussing chamber studies using G551D/F508del-HBE

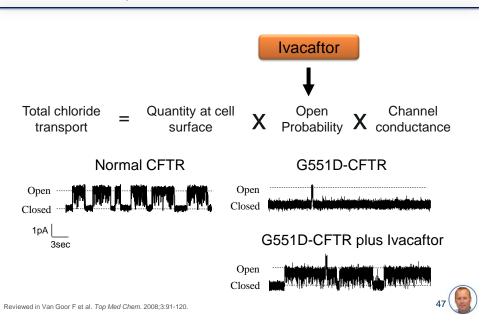
DMSO, dimethyl sulfoxide. Van Goor F et al. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2009;3:18825-18830.

### Direct Measurement of CFTR Channel Gating Single-channel, patch-clamp technique

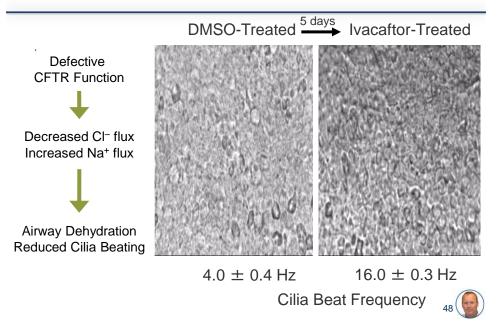


Reviewed in Van Goor F et al. Top Med Chem. 2008;3:91-120.

# Ivacaftor Increases the Channel Open Probability of G551D-CFTR Expressed in Cultured Cells

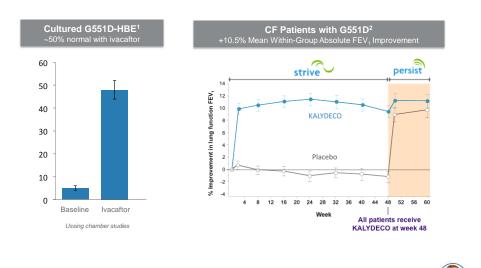


## Ivacaftor Increased Cilia Beating in G551D/F508delHBE



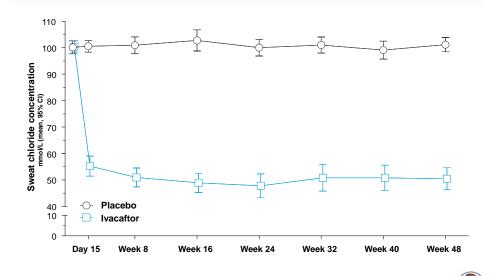
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# Effect of Ivacaftor *in Vitro* Translated to Effect in People with *G551D* Mutation



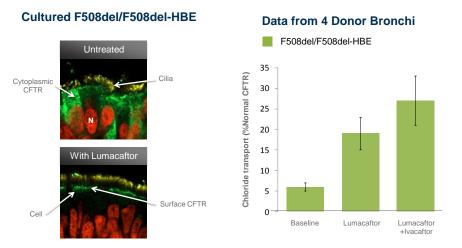
Goor F et al. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2009;3:18825-18830.
McKone E et al. Lancet Respir Med. 2014;2(11):902-910.

# Ivacaftor Reduced Sweat Chloride Concentrations in People with CF who have the G551D Gating Mutation



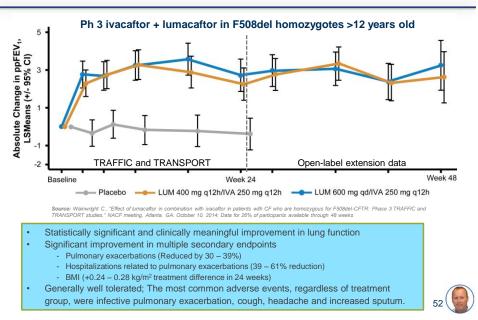
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# Ivacaftor Potentiates *F508del-CFTR* Delivered to the Cell Surface by Lumacaftor



Chronic treatment with lumacaftor (3 µM) and/or ivacaftor (100 nM) in Ussing chamber studies

### Lumacaftor + Ivacaftor Produced Significant Clinical Benefits in People with 2 Copies of F508del



### 4) Conclusions & Future Perspectives

- Ivacaftor (Kalydeco®) FDA approval in 2012 Lumacaftor/ivacaftor combo (Orkambi®) FDA approval in 2015
- Misfolded mutant CFTR is 'fixable' by small molecules
- Open mind required when looking for CFTR modulators: "Rules are, by nature, barriers to innovation" (G. Mueller) "Rules are not laws, but guidelines " (N. Meanwell)
- Human bronchial epithelia to date appear to be predictive for clinical outcomes
- Currently in clinical evaluation: novel correctors that will be part of a triple combination treatment with the goal to enhance and expand clinical benefit towards all F508del heterozygote CF patients

## Acknowledgements



Fred Paul van Goor Negulescu













#### Meet the Organizers Nicholas Meanwell







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### Thursday, April 27, 2017



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- Industry Trends for NCE vs NBE Drug Candidate Transitions
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