

Oral IL-23 Receptor Peptide Antagonist JNJ-2113: The Journey from De Novo Discovery to Phase 3 Clinical Development Program

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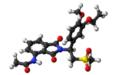
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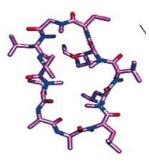
# **Peptides**

### What are They?

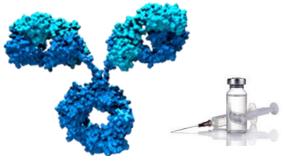




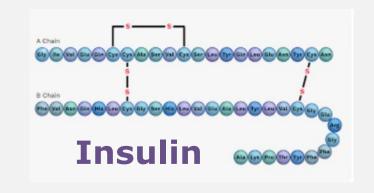
Small Molecule MW <0.5 Kd



Peptide MW ~1-5 Kd



Biologics MW ~100-300 Kd









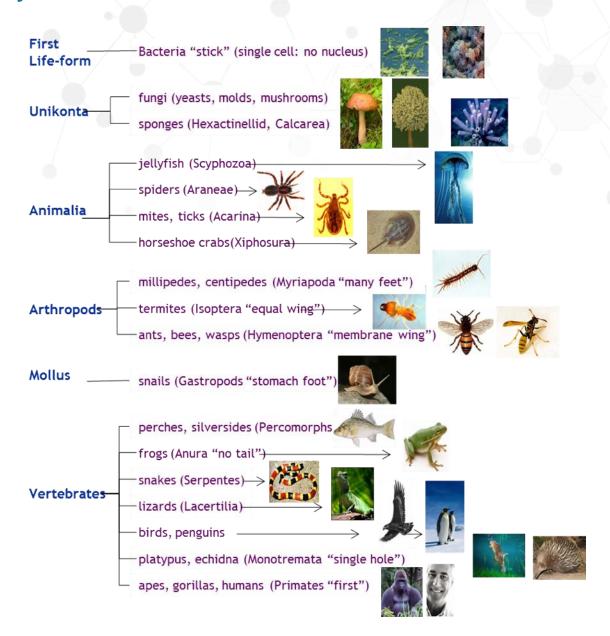
# Peptides-based De Novo Drug Discovery

Where to Start?

# Mother Nature: Disulfide Rich Peptides (DRPs)

- Immense scaffold diversity
- Multiple recognition surfaces
  - Biologics like **potency** and specificity
- Rigid, constrained, knotted
  - Small molecule-like stability







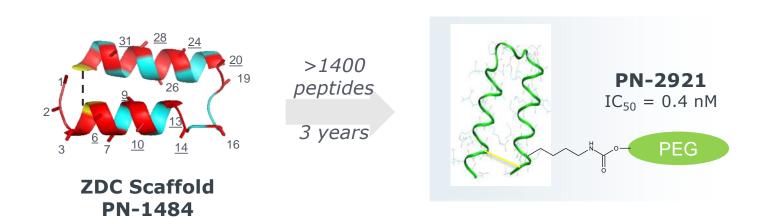
# Peptides-based Medicine

### **Injectable Peptides vs. Injectable Antibodies**



### **IL-6 Peptide Antagonists**

Collaboration with Ironwood Pharmaceuticals (2011-14)



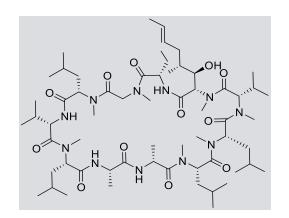


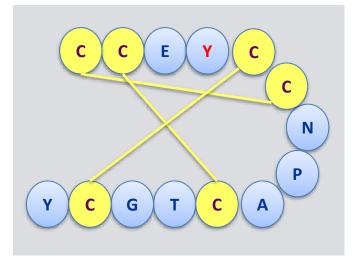


 $IC_{50} \sim 10 \mu M$ 

# **Oral Peptides**

### **The Holy Grail**







**Cyclosporine** 

Linaclotide

Semaglutide

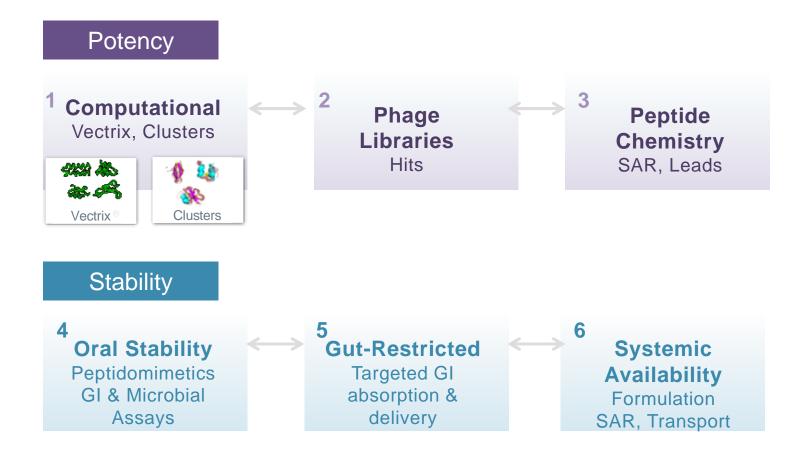
Rybelsus®: oral, diabetes Ozempic®: sc, diabetes

Wegovy®: sc, Obesity



# Peptide Technology Platform

### **Towards Oral Peptides**





# Peptides-based Medicine

### **ORAL Peptides vs. Injectable Antibodies**

### **Inflammation & Immunomodulatory Diseases**

Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis, Psoriatic Arthritis, IBD (Crohn's, UC)

# **Injectable Antibody Drugs**





**TNF** 







IL-12/23

**IL-23** 

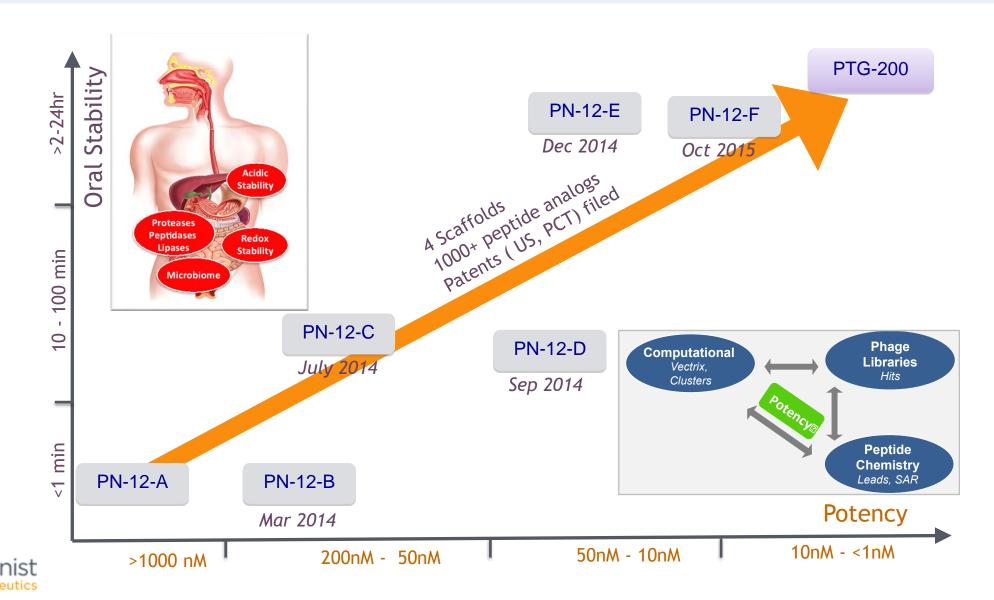
# **Protagonist Oral Peptide Discovery Programs**

Oral α4β7integrin antagonist Oral IL-23 receptor antagonist



# IL-23R Antagonist Lead Discovery and Optimization

### 2013-2015: Optimizing Potency and Oral Stability



# PTG-200: Potent, Selective and Stable IL-23R Antagonist



	ELISA (nM)			Cell assay (nM)			Selectivity (ELISA, nM)		Stability (t <sub>1/2</sub> , hr)		
Peptide	Hu	Cyno	Rat	Hu DB Cell (pSTAT3)	Hu NK cell	Rat (Spleen)	IL-12 Rβ1	IL-6/ IL-6R	SIF*	SGF*	HIF*
PTG-200	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.6	2.2	18.3	>100,000	>100,000	12	6	24

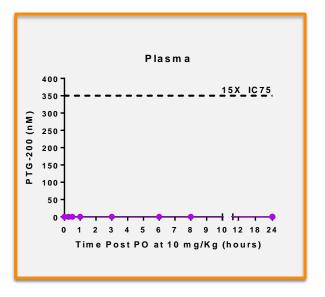
\*SIF: simulated intestinal fluid \*SGF: simulated gastric fluid \*HIF: human intestinal fluid



# PTG-200: Gut-Restricted, High GI Content, Orally Stable

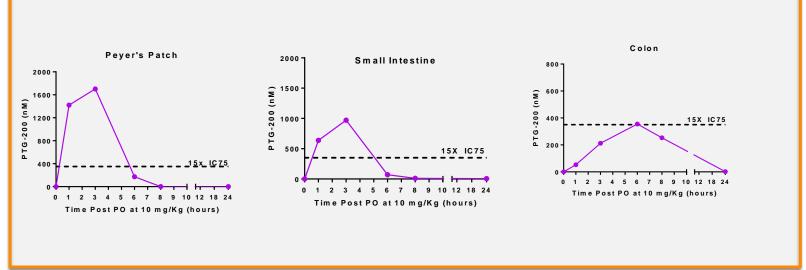
### **Gut-restricted Peptide with excellent Gastro-intestinal exposure**

## Minimal systemic exposure



### **GI-Exposure**



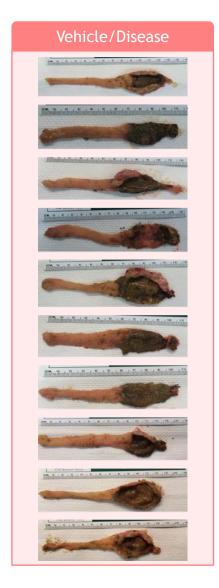


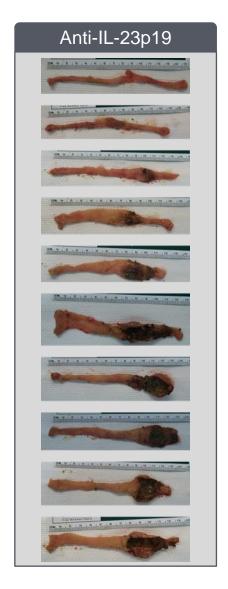


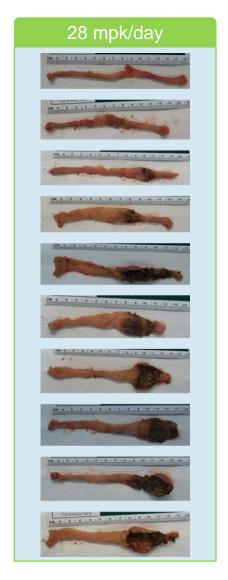
# PTG-200: Pre-Clinical POC in Acute Colitis Rat Study

### **Dose-dependent Reduction in Ulcerations**

- Dose-dependent attenuation of disease parameters
  - Body weight change
  - Colon macroscopic score
  - Colon weight/length ratio
  - Histopathology
- Reduction in IL-23 directed cytokine/disease biomarkers











# Protagonist-Janssen Oral, IL-23R Antagonist Collaboration **2017-Present**

#### **Collaboration overview**

- Initiated in 2017 with I&I market leader Janssen Biotech<sup>1</sup>
- 1st generation development candidate: PTG-200
- Joint discovery & development efforts
  - Protagonist responsible for pre-clinical and Phase 1 studies
  - Janssen responsible for further development
- Earned \$112.5M in upfront & milestones; eligible for up to \$855M in future milestones
- Upward-tiering 6-10% royalties

### Significant market potential for oral IL-23R antagonist

Potential indications include psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis, IBD (ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease)<sup>1</sup>

### Oral agents expected to contribute to market growth

- Substantial portion of patients untreated with current standard of care
- Despite strong efficacy, biologics associated with safety concerns, loss of response, inconvenient administration, highlighting the need for safe and effective oral options<sup>2,3</sup>



<sup>1.</sup> Stelara® generated \$9.7B in sales, and Tremfya® generated \$2.7B in sales in 2022, per Johnson & Johnson 2022 Annual Report

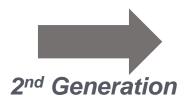
<sup>2.</sup> Levin, E. et al. *J Dermatol Treat*; 25(1); 78-82; 3. Piragine E., et al. *J Clin Med* 2022; 11(6); 1506

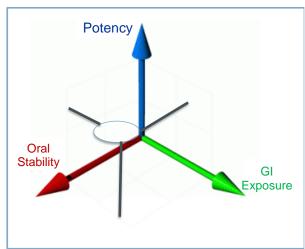
# **Protagonist Therapeutics**

### 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation Oral IL-23 Receptor Antagonist Peptides

PTG-200

- Good potency (~2 nM) and selectivity
- Adequate oral stability
- Gut-restricted activity
- 2017-18: Ph1 study
- 2019-21: Ph2 Crohn's study





PN-235 Now JNJ-2113

- >1000-fold more potent vs. PTG-200
- Excellent oral stability
  - >20% fecal recovery after 24h in cynos
- Systemically active
- Pre-clinical POC
  - Rat TNBS colitis model
  - Rat skin inflammation model
- 2020-21: Ph1 study
- 2022-23: Ph2b Psoriasis study
- 2023: Initiation of Ph3 psoriasis studies
- 2023: Initiation of Ph2b UC study



# JNJ-2113 FRONTIER 1 Phase 2b Plaque Psoriasis (PsO) Study

Week 0

Randomize

A Phase 2b multicenter, randomized, placebo controlled, dose-ranging study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of JNJ-2113 for the treatment of moderate-to-severe plaque psoriasis

#### Screening **Treatment** Safety Follow-up **Adult Patients with PP** (Up to 4 Weeks)\* (Weeks 0-16) (4 Weeks) N = 255**Eligibility:** 25 mg QD & Placebo Moderate – Severe PP Inclusion: 50 Mg QD & Placebo BSA > 10% Randomize LTE (FRONTIER 2) • PASI ≥ 12 100 mg QD & Placebo **Primary endpoint:** or PASI > 75 at Week 16 50 mg BID & Placebo 4 weeks safety follow-up 100 mg BID & Placebo **Placebo**

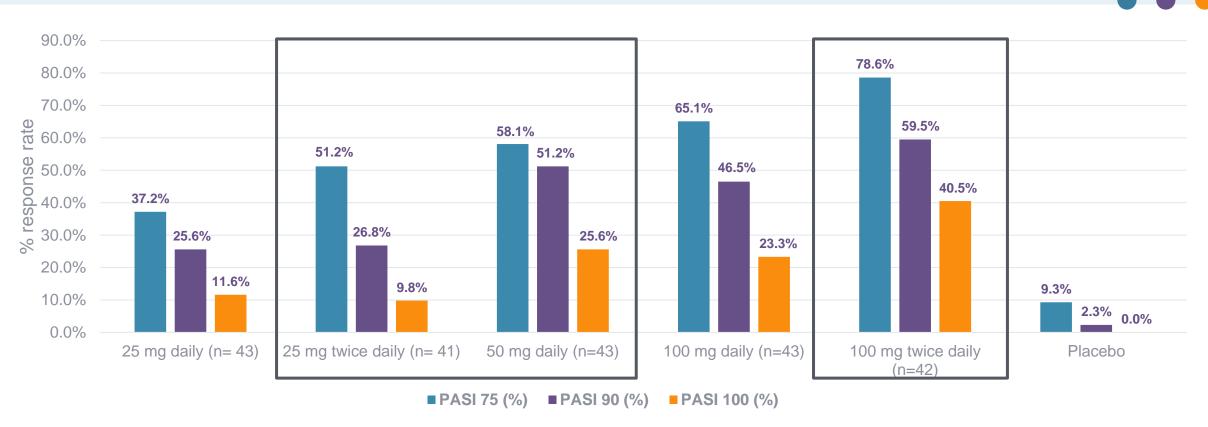


Week 16

**Primary Endpoint** 

### JNJ-2113 Phase 2B Frontier 1 Data

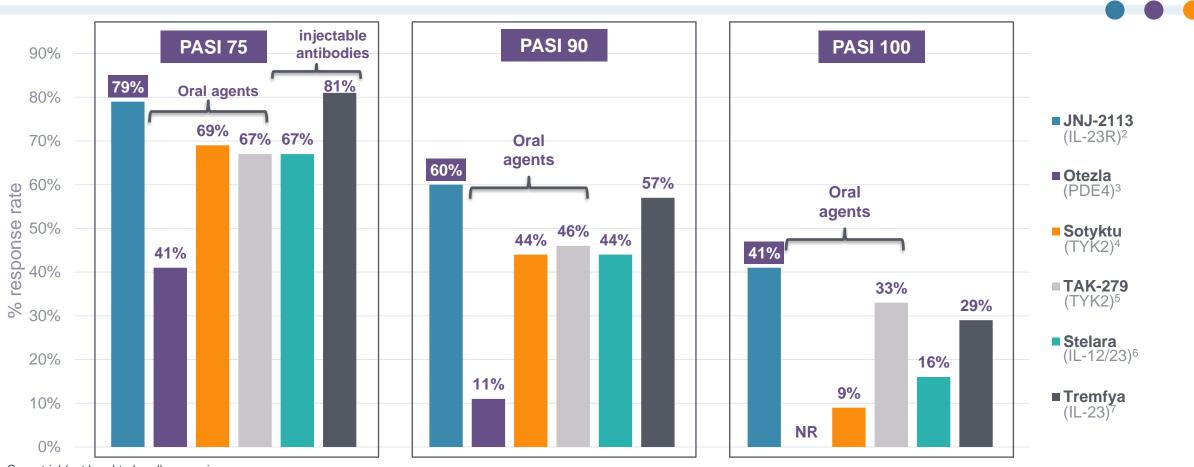
### **Dose Response**



- Clear, linear dose-response
- Once daily dosing appears more efficacious in comparison to twice daily dosing



# Cross-Study Comparison of JNJ-2113 to Clinically Relevant Phase 2 Benchmarks<sup>1</sup>



- 1. Cross trial (not head-to-head) comparisons
- 2. JNJ2113 100 mg bid dose. Wk 16 endpoint (Placebo: PASI 75: 9.3%, PASI 90: 2.3%, PASI 100: 0%)
- Otezla 30 mg qd approved dose. Week 16 primary endpoint. Papp K et al. Lancet 2012; 380: 738–46. (Placebo: PASI 75: 5.7%, PASI 90: 1.1%, PASI 100: NR)
- 4. Sotyktu 3 mg bid dose (6 mg qd dose approved). Wk 12 primary endpoint. Papp K et al. N Engl J Med 2018; 379:1313-1321. (Placebo: PASI 75: 7%, PASI 90: 2%, PASI 100: 0%)
- 5. TAK-279 30 mg qd dose (Expected phase 3 dose). Wk 12 primary endpoint. AAD 2023. (Placebo: PASI 75: 5.8%, PASI 90: 0%, PASI 100: 0%)
- 6. Stelara 45 mg wkly x 4 (~approved 90 mg week 0 and 2 approved dose). Wk 12 primary endpoint. Krueger et al. N Engl J Med 2007;356:580-92. (Placebo: PASI 75: 2%, PASI 90: 2%, PASI 100: 0%)
- 7. Tremfya 200 mg wk 0, 4, then q 8 wks (approved dose 100 mg wk 0, 4 then q 8 wks). Wk 16 primary endpoint. Gordon KB et al. N Engl J Med 2015;373:136-44. (Placebo: PASI 75: 5%, PASI 90: 2%, PASI 100: 0%)



# JNJ-2113 (formerly PN-235):

### **Conclusions from Phase 2b FRONTIER 1 Psoriasis Study and Next Steps**



- Oral IL-23R antagonist peptide
- First-in-class
- Only-in-class
- Efficacious, welltolerated

## **Efficacy**

- Statistically significant efficacy vs. placebo across all doses
- A dose-response in PASI scores (75, 90, 100)

## Safety

- Well tolerated at all doses with AEs comparable vs. placebo
- No dose dependent relationship in AEs

### **Potential**

 Potential for best-in-class psoriasis oral agent

## **Next Steps**

Further
 development in
 psoriasis and
 other IL-23
 mediated
 disease
 indications is
 warranted

JNJ-2113 is a first-, and only-in-class <u>oral</u> IL-23 receptor antagonist peptide with a potential for best-in-class oral psoriasis agent



# JNJ-2113

# Multiple Clinical Studies with Multiple Shots on Goal

Study	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3		Key Milestones
NCT04621630	Ph1 in NHVs			• F	Ph1 PK study in NHVs in Australia
NCT05062200	Ph1 in NHVs			• F	Ph1 in healthy Japanese/Chinese participants
NCT05703841	Ph1 in NHVs			• F	Ph1 study in healthy adult Chinese participants
FRONTIER 1	Ph2b in Psoriasis			• 2	255-patient psoriasis study completed
FRONTIER 2	Ph2b in Psoriasis			ا ٠	TE study of FRONTIER 1
SUMMIT	Ph2a in Psoriasis			• 6	00-patient psoriasis delayed release formulation
ICONIC-LEAD	Ph3 in Psoriasis			• (	Oct '23; PASI90 & IGA 0/1
ICONIC-TOTAL	Ph3 in Psoriasis			• (	Oct '23; special areas IGA 0/1
Planned	New Psoriasis studi	es		• 1	New psoriasis studies planned
ANTHEM-UC Protagonist Therapeutics	Ph2 in UC			• I	nitiated Oct '23  janssen

# **Protagonist Therapeutics**

### **Peptides-based Medicine**

#### **Innovation**

- Validated peptide technology platform
- Two phase 3 assets
  - JNJ-2113: Oral, IL-23R antagonist peptide in Ph3 study in psoriasis
  - Rusfertide: Hepcidin mimetic injectable peptide (qw) in ph3 study in polycythemia vera

#### Resilience

- IL-6 antagonist program: Injectable peptide vs injectable antibody
- IL-23 receptor antagonist program
  - 1st Generation **PTG-200**: **Oral, gut-restricted peptide**
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation JNJ-2113: Oral, systemically available peptide in Ph3 study in psoriasis

#### Differentiation

- JNJ-2113: First-in-class, only-in-class, oral, IL-23 receptor antagonist
- Rusfertide: First-in-class erythrocytosis specific agent







