Kathryn Wagner, MD, PhD MidAtlantic FSHD Family Day September 30, 2018



Kennedy Krieger Institute



Clinical Research in FSHD

What is Clinical Research?

- Research with human volunteers (participants, subjects).
- Carefully conducted investigations to ultimately uncover better ways to treat, prevent, diagnose and understand human disease.

Human Subjects

- Safety and rights of human subjects must be protected
 - Study Design
 - Institutional Review Board (IRB):
 - an independent committee that consists of physicians, statisticians, and members of the community to ensure that clinical trials are ethical and that the rights of participants are protected.
 - Informed Consent
 - The process of learning the key facts about a clinical trial before deciding to participate, including the purpose, duration, required procedures, risks, potential benefits and who to contact
 - Data Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB)
 - An independent group of experts that advises the sponsor and the study investigators.
 - Responsible for periodically reviewing the study data
 - Makes recommendations concerning continuation, modification or termination of trial.

Types of Clinical Research

- Observational studies
 - Assess health outcomes in groups of participants
- Natural history studies
 - How does disease and health progress
- Prevention trials
 - Studies way to prevent disease in people who have never had the disease or prevent from returning (vaccine, medicine, lifestyle changes)
- Screening Trials
 - Test the best way to detect certain disease or health conditions
- Diagnostic Trials
 - Determine better tests or procedures for diagnosing a particular disease or condition
- Treatment Trials (or interventional study)
 - Tests new treatments, new combinations of drugs or new approaches to therapy to see whether safe and efficacious in a disease population
- Quality of life Trials
 - Measure ways to improve quality of life in people with chronic illness



Clinical Trials

Phase I: Assess Drug Safety and Tolerability

- Healthy volunteers then target population
- Limited number of people
- Pharmacokinetics (i.e. Absorption, metabolism, excretion)
- Dose escalation
- 70% of new drugs pass this phase

Clinical Trials cont.

- Phase II: Assess Drug efficacy (and further evaluate safety)
 - Randomized
 - Controlled
 - Surrogate outcome measures
 - Short term
 - Small numbers
 - 22% drugs which enter Phase II go forward

Clinical Trials cont.

- Phase III: Large scale RCT to confirm efficacy and safety in a larger population
 - Hundreds of patients
 - Randomized, placebo-controlled
 - Long-term
 - Outcome measures similar to real world (function, quality of life)
 - Defines packaging insert content and allow marketing
 - 55% of drugs succeed phase III

Therefore ~8% of drugs that enter clinical trials are FDA approved

Randomization

- E.g. Assign 40 people randomly to 4 different treatment "arms"
 - Condition 1 = Wonderdrug 5%
 - Condition 2 = Wonderdrug 10%
 - Condition 3 = Wonderdrug 15%
 - Condition 4 = Placebo
- Assign each participant a unique participant number
- Use Randomizer algorithm to generate 1 set of 40 non-unique, unsorted numbers with a range from 1 to 4 (representing the condition numbers).
 - 3, 4, 4, 3, 2, 2, 4, 4, 1, 2, 2, 2, 1, 3, 3, 1, 4, 4, 2, 1, 3, 2, 1, 1, 3, 2, 3, 2, 4, 2, 2, 3, 3, 4, 2, 2, 1, 3, 4, 2

Control

- A comparison group that receives a placebo, another treatment, or no treatment at all.
- Does not have to be a 1:1 ratio to treatment (and frequently isn't)



CONTROL GROUP

OUT OF CONTROL GROUP.

Clinical Trials

• Phase IV

- After a drug is approved by the FDA
- Compare drugs with other drugs on the market
- Define broader target population
- Monitor long-term efficacy and safety

Members of a Study Team

- Principal Investigator (PI)
 - Usually a doctor
 - May have co- or sub-Pls
 - Ultimately responsible for wellbeing of patients and good data collection
- Clinical Trial Coordinator
 - may be a nurse, doctor or other professional
 - Makes the trial run smooth operationally
- Clinical Evaluator
 - Physical therapist
 - Measures function

• Nurse

- Collect urine/blood
- Administer treatment



Study Design

- Clinical research is conducted according to a protocol.
 - Who is eligible to participate
 - Detailed procedures
 - Length of study, number of visits, what information is to be gathered at each visit

Screening

- Informed Consent
- Eligibility
 - Inclusion and Exclusion criteria
 - Age, gender, type and stage of disease, previous treatment history, other medical conditions, other medicines
 - Reproducibility

Visits

Month Week: Day:	0	0 0 1	2	1	2	3	6 26 180	181	182	7	8	9	12 52
			-				100	101	102				
Informed Consent	Х												
Inclusion/Exclusion	Х												
Safety measures:													
Vital signs	х	Q 6hr	Q 6hr	x	х	x	Q 6hr	Q 6hr	Q 6hr	х	x	х	x
Physical Exam	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
Hematology/chemistries	Х		Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	х	Х
Adverse Events			Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
Efficacy measures:													
Cardiac MRI	Х						Х						Х
Flow-mediated vasodilation (FMD)		Х					Х						
Electrocardiogram		Х					Х						Х
Forced vital capacity		Х				Х	Х					Х	Х
INQoL & SF-36		Х				Х	Х					Х	Х
Pincher and grip test		Х				Х	Х					Х	Х
Drug dosing:													
Inpatient administration		Х	Х				Х	Х	Х				
Dispense 1 months' supply			х	x	х				x	х	х		
Dispense 3 months' supply						х						х	

Outcome measures

- Measures that are meaningful to patient's everyday lives
 - E.g. Longevity
 - E.g. Function
- Other Measures that known to correlate with meaningful measures (biomarkers)
 - E.g. 6 minute walk test



After the trial

- Information collected is studied
- Decision make whether to go forward with next phase
- Results often published in peer-reviewed journals
- Results specific to the individual participant are frequently not shared with the participant

Why participate?

- Play an active role in research and improving the treatment of disease
- Gain access to new treatments before they are widely available
- Receive regular and careful medical attention

Questions you want to ask

- Who is sponsoring the trial
- What is the participant burden
- What are the risks (of the treatment and of the studies)
- What is the degree of harm that could result
- What is the chance of harm occurring
- What will be billed to study versus patient
- What is the ratio of placebo to treatment
- Is there a commitment to an extension study

Why clinical research in FSHD now

- Medical Community learns about FSHD (natural history)
- Research Community learns how to study FSHD (biomarkers, imaging, endpoints etc.)
- Patient Community is engaged

"To my surprise and appreciation, I found myself immersed in a medical system that overflowed with passion for its work and for FSHD. I was surrounded by doctors, surgeons, nurses and aides who were attentive and engaged. I found myself looking forward to each visit and the exchange of information and knowledge. "



Natural history studies

- Clinical Trial Readiness to Solve Barriers to Drug Development in FSHD (RESOLVE)
 - Must be able to walk 30 feet without support
 - Visits at baseline, 3 mo, 12 mo and 18 mo
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Spectroscopy Biomarkers for Skeletal Muscle Disease
 - Visits at baseline, 3 mo, 9 mo, 15 mo and 21 mo

Testosterone and rHGH (STARFISH)

• University of Rochester

- Inclusion criteria
 - Able to complete a 6 minute walk test
 - PSA=<4.0
- Open label

• Primary outcome measure safety

• Secondary outcome measures serum levels of hormones, lean body mass

Acceleron ACE-083

- Inhibitor of TGF-beta family members (myostatin and activins).
- Myostatin normal acts to inhibit muscle growth
- Inhibiting the inhibitor causes increased muscle growth, muscle regeneration and decreased fibrosis

Acceleron

- Two part phase 2 trial
- Part 1
 - Open label, dose escalation study
 - Injection every 3 weeks for 12 weeks
 - Good safety and tolerability
 - 6.7% increase in total muscle volume (compared to -0.5 in control)
 - -4.8% change in fat fraction (compared to -0.8 in control)
- Part 2
 - Placebo controlled trial
 - Enrolling
 - Inclusion criteria include biceps or tibialis between grade 3 and 4+
 - 6 minute walk distance >=150 meters and =< 500 meters (without a brace)
 - Injection of bilateral muscles

Fulcrum

- Developing a small molecule that reduces DUX4 and DUX4 target genes
- Anticipates filing an IND in 2019
- Fulcrum has various preparatory biomarker studies ongoing
 - Reachable workspace
 - Needle biopsy and MRI study

GENEA BIOCELLS

PRECLINICAL CANDIDATE GBC0905



STRENGTH IN DISCOVERY

- San Diego-based company focused on developing therapeutics for orphan neuromuscular diseases
- lead candidate GBC0905 to treat FSHD type 1 and 2
- first DUX4-targeted drug to receive FDA orphan drug designation



GBC0905

STATUS AND PLANS



STRENGTH IN DISCOVERY

- Genea Biocells:
 - demonstrated efficacy in a number of models and assays
 - mechanistically linked the drug's target to DUX4 expression
 - observed no cellular toxicity/no inhibition of myogenesis
- GBC0905 is a repurposed drug (but not on the market for other indications):
 - existing clinical data suggest the drug is safe, orally available and suitable for chronic administration
- IND-enabling studies in progress, clinical studies anticipated to start in 2019
- Genea Biocells have multiple backup series

Future studies

• Gene therapy: Adeno-associated virus (AAV) to knockdown DUX4

- Nonpathogenic
- Wide tropism to tissues
- Delivers gene without Integrating into host genome



Angie Lasseth Nikia Stinson DPT Andrea Jaworek DPT Kiley Morgart MSW Jessica Nance MD Susan Schiaffino OTR/L Julie Cohen MS Genila Bibat MD Doris Leung MD Michael Munchel CRN Mary Yep Luis Monsalve MHS Yazmin Gonzalez Adam Black PhD Congshan Sun PhD Carlo Serra PhD Hannah Pulcastro Katherine Summerton Tammy Rohleder RN-CPN

Center for Genetic Muscle Disorders Kennedy Krieger Institute

