



# Longitudinal 148-Week Update of ANAVEX<sup>®</sup>2-73 Phase 2a Alzheimer's Disease Extension Study

CTAD October 2018

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# Safe Harbor

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# Disclosures

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- The studies were funded by Anavex Life Sciences
- HH serves as Senior Associate Editor for the Journal Alzheimer's & Dementia; he is the speaker of the Alzheimer Precision Medicine Initiative (APMI), he received lecture fees from Biogen and Roche, research grants from Pfizer, Avid, and MSD Avenir (paid to the institution), travel funding from Functional Neuromodulation, Axovant, Eli Lilly and company, and Oryzon Genomics, consultancy fees from Axovant, Anavex, Oryzon Genomics, Functional Neuromodulation, and participated in scientific advisory boards of Functional Neuromodulation, Axovant, Eli Lilly and company, Oryzon Genomics, Roche Diagnostics
- MA, FP, CW and AD are employees and shareholders of Ariana Pharma
- FG is employee and shareholder of Regulatory Pathfinders
- CM is an employee and shareholder of Anavex

# Agenda

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- Introduction
- Background
- ANAVEX<sup>®</sup> 2-73-003 Extension Study Update
- Precision Medicine Paradigm from Oncology to Alzheimer's Disease
- KEM<sup>®</sup> platform to Select Relevant Biomarkers
- Mixed-Effect Models for Repeated Measures with a Linear Time Component



# Introduction

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- **ANAVEX<sup>®</sup>2-73** is a **novel compound** relevant to AD and neurodegenerative, neurological diseases
- **Targeting the Sigma-1 receptor (SIGMAR1)**
- **Selective under pathological conditions while sparing normal physiological activity, thus limiting adverse side effects<sup>#</sup>**
- **ANAVEX<sup>®</sup>2-73** is an **orally available small molecule** that activates SIGMAR1 which serves as an intracellular chaperone and functional modulator of **calcium homeostasis** and **synaptic plasticity** through targeting protein-misfolding, oxidative stress, mitochondrial dysfunction, inflammation, cellular stress

<sup>#</sup>Nguyen et al. *J Pharmacol Sciences* 127 (2015) 17-29

# Background

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- ANAVEX<sup>®</sup>2-73 is a new targeted therapy in Alzheimer and other neurological diseases
- **57-week Phase 2a study:** ANAVEX<sup>®</sup>2-73 was tested in a 57-week Phase 2a study (AV2-73-002<sup>1</sup>) with 32 mild-to-moderate Alzheimer's disease dementia patients. This study showed:
  - **Concentration-dependent response** in this population for exploratory functional (ADCS-ADL<sup>2</sup>) and cognitive (MMSE<sup>3</sup>) endpoints
  - **New AD patient selection genomic biomarker variants of**
    - SIGMAR1 (rs1800866)
    - COMT (rs113895332/ rs61143203)
  - These new patient selection biomarkers enable a **targeted therapy for patients which are likely to benefit from ANAVEX<sup>®</sup>2-73**
- 57-week Phase 2a study was **extended by 208 weeks** (AV2-73-003<sup>4</sup>) in 21 patients
- **Update at 148-week** of Phase 2a extension: The impact of these SIGMAR1 and COMT biomarkers on ANAVEX<sup>®</sup>2-73 response has been assessed at 148-week extension

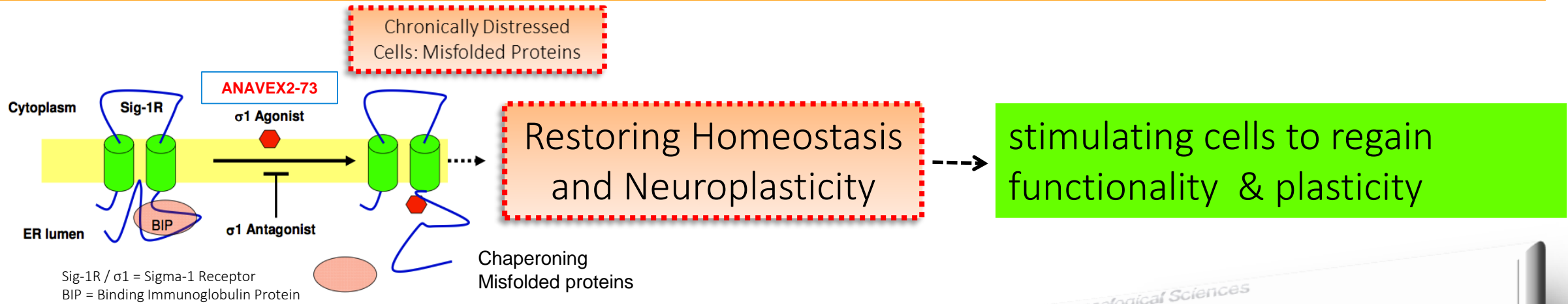
<sup>2</sup>Mini Mental State Examination (MMSE)

<sup>3</sup>Alzheimer's Disease Co-operative Study – Activities of Daily Living Inventory (ADCS-ADL)

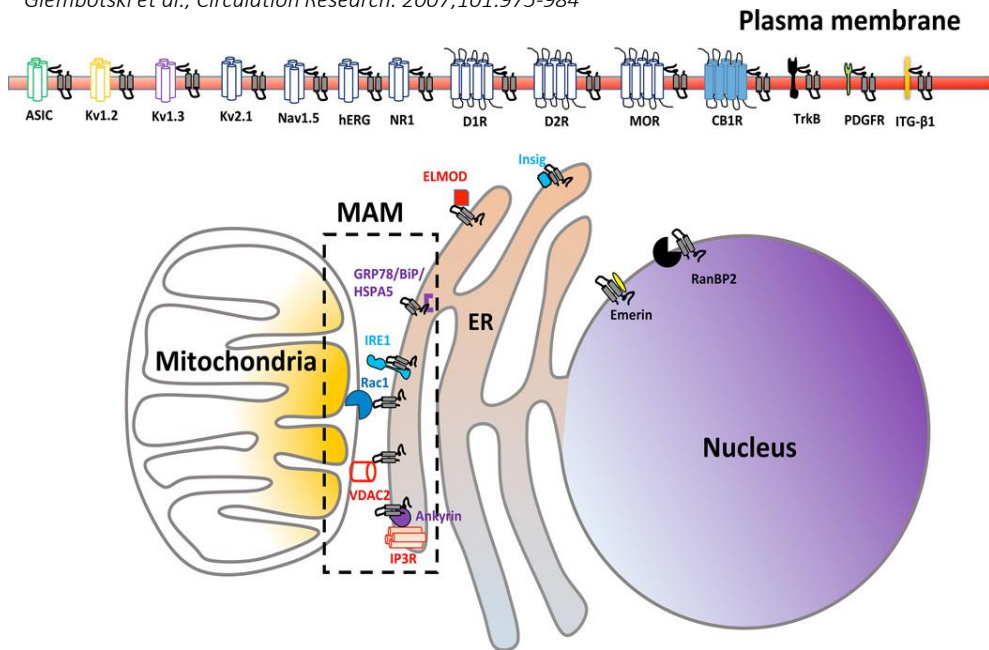
<sup>1,4</sup>ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier:

<sup>1</sup>NCT02244541; <sup>4</sup>NCT02756858

# ANAVEX<sup>®</sup>2-73 activates Sigma-1 Receptor Restoring Cellular Homeostasis



Source: Schematic approximation adapted from Miki et al, Dec 9. doi: 10.1111/neup.12080 *Neuropathology* 2013  
Glembotski et al., *Circulation Research*. 2007;101:975-984



Su et al., *Trends Pharmacol Sci*. 2016

*Trends in Pharmacological Sciences*

## Opinion

### The Sigma-1 Receptor as a Pluripotent Modulator in Living Systems

Tsung-Ping Su,<sup>1,\*</sup> Tzu-Chieh Su,<sup>1</sup> Yoki Nakamura,<sup>1</sup> and Shang-Yi Tsai<sup>1</sup>

The sigma-1 receptor (Sig-1R) is an endoplasmic reticulum (ER) protein that resides specifically in the mitochondria-associated endoplasmic reticulum (ER) membrane (MAM), an interface between ER and mitochondria. In addition to being able to translocate to the plasma membrane (PM) to interact with ion channels and other receptors, Sig-1R also occurs at the nuclear envelope, where it recruits chromatin-remodeling factors to affect the transcription of genes. Sig-1Rs have also been reported to interact with other membranous or soluble proteins at other loci, including the cytosol, and to be involved in several central nervous system (CNS) diseases. Here, we propose that Sig-1R is a pluripotent modulator with resultant multiple functional manifestations in living systems.

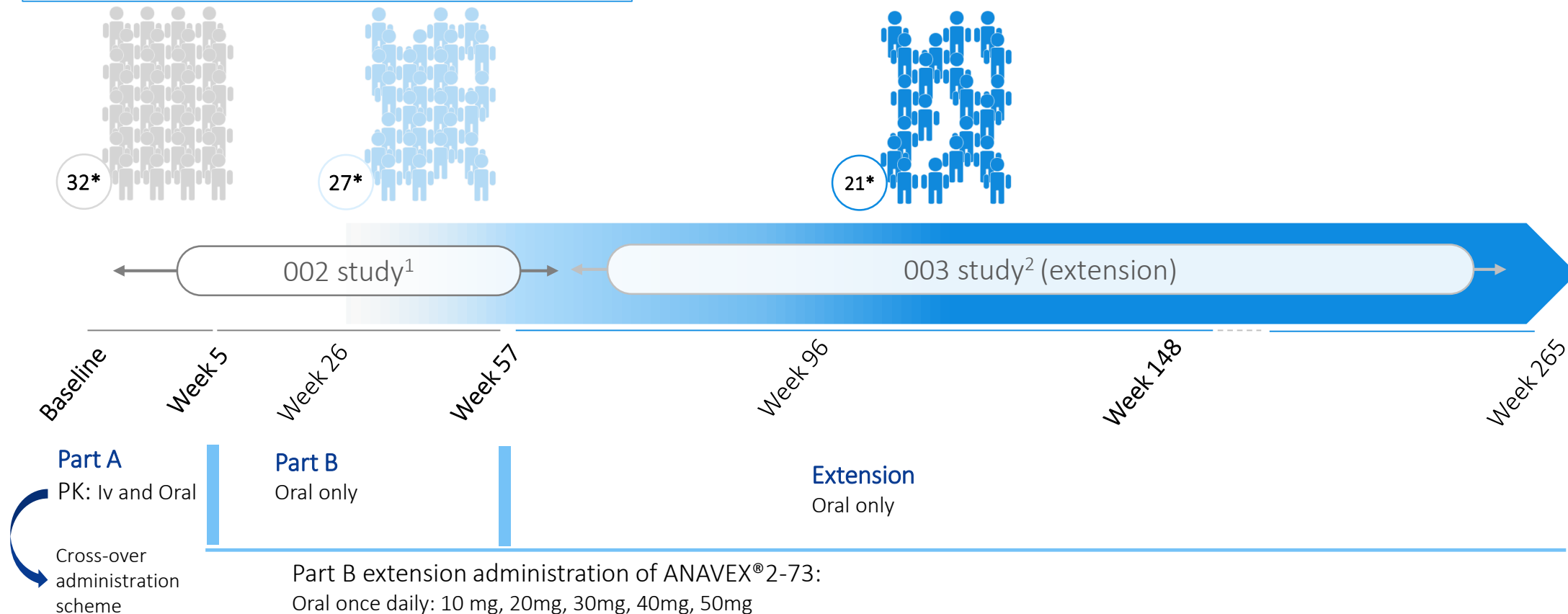
Two-trans-membrane SIGMAR1 is an ER protein that resides in the mitochondrial assoc. ER membrane (MAM)

Translocates to the cytosol/plasma membrane and interacts with numerous receptors, ion channels and proteins as determined via experimental means

# Overview ANAVEX<sup>®</sup>2-73 Phase 2a Clinical Study

## Patient inclusion characteristics:

- Mild-moderate AD patients
- Age range: 55 to 85
- Clinically diagnosed with MRI and/or PET scans



<sup>1,2</sup> *ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier:* <sup>1</sup>NCT02244541; <sup>2</sup>NCT02756858

\*: 1 patient is outside inclusion criteria. This patient was excluded from calculations



# ANAVEX<sup>®</sup>2-73 Phase 2a Alzheimer Extension Study Safety Update

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- Safety update through 148 weeks:
  - Continued favorable safety and tolerability
  - No ANAVEX<sup>®</sup>2-73 related AE or SAE

# Translation of Precision Medicine Paradigm from Oncology to Alzheimer's Disease

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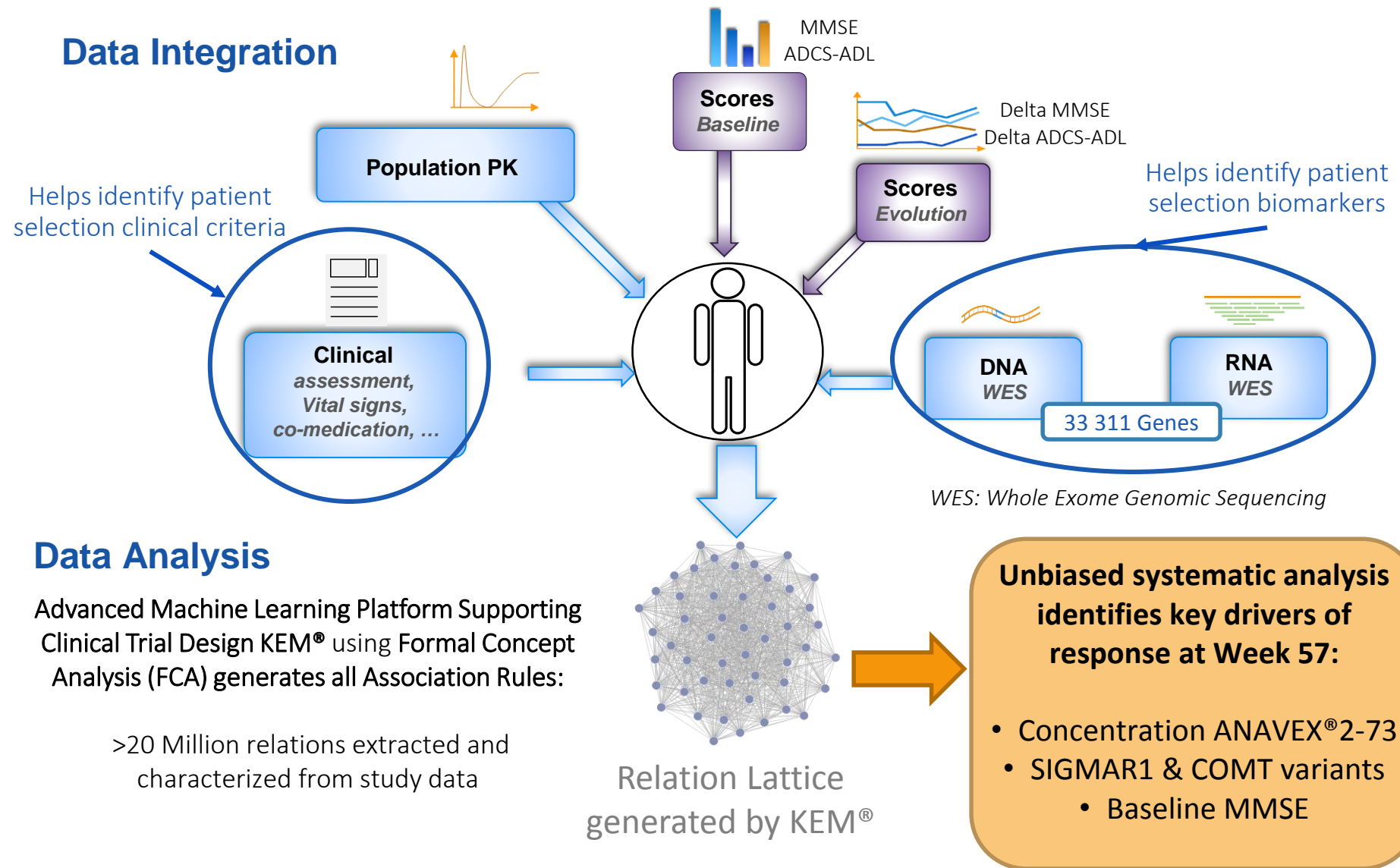
## ■ Cancer

- Broad spectrum of diseases, characterized by molecular markers specific to different tumors
- Molecular test required for treatment decision
- ~40% of new drugs have a companion diagnostic

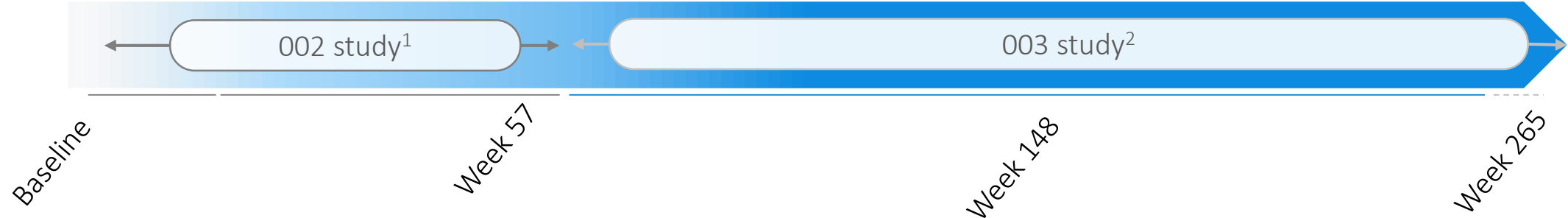
## ■ Alzheimer's Disease

- Broad spectrum of diseases, characterized by molecular markers specific to different patient populations
- Identify molecular markers to select patients who will benefit from targeted AD therapies

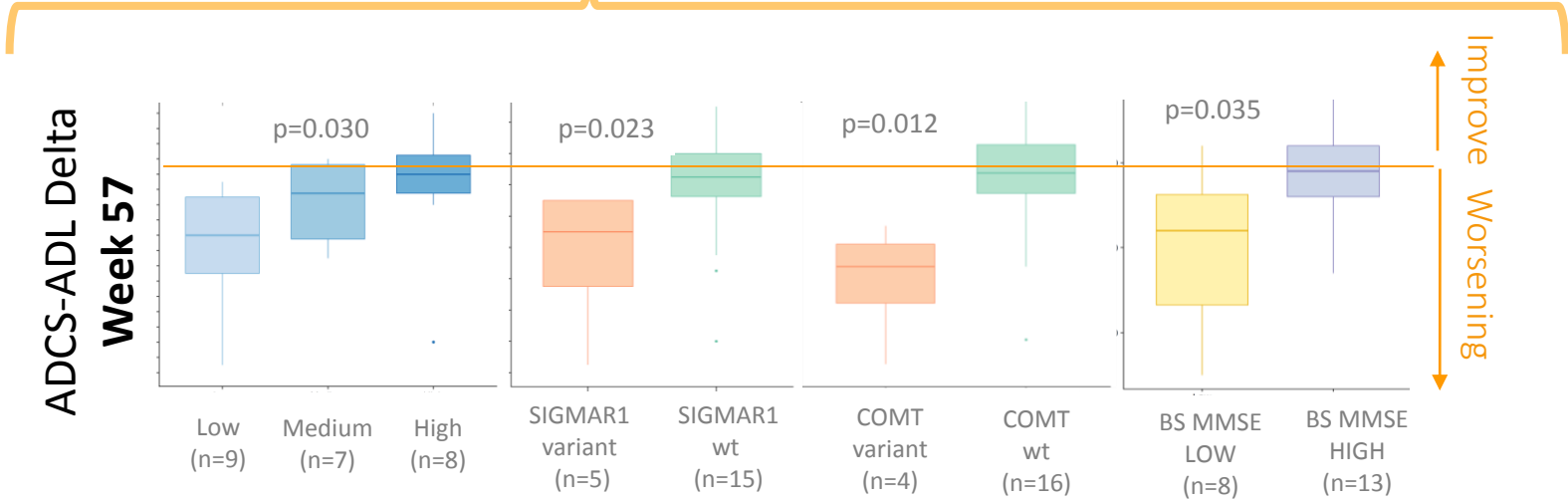
# ANAVEX<sup>®</sup>2-73 Data Integration and Data Analysis with KEM<sup>®</sup>



# Validating Week 57 Drivers of Clinical Response at Week 148



**Four key drivers of response identified at Week 57 with KEM<sup>®</sup>**



1) Mean Concentration AV2-73<sup>#</sup> (ng/mL) Part B

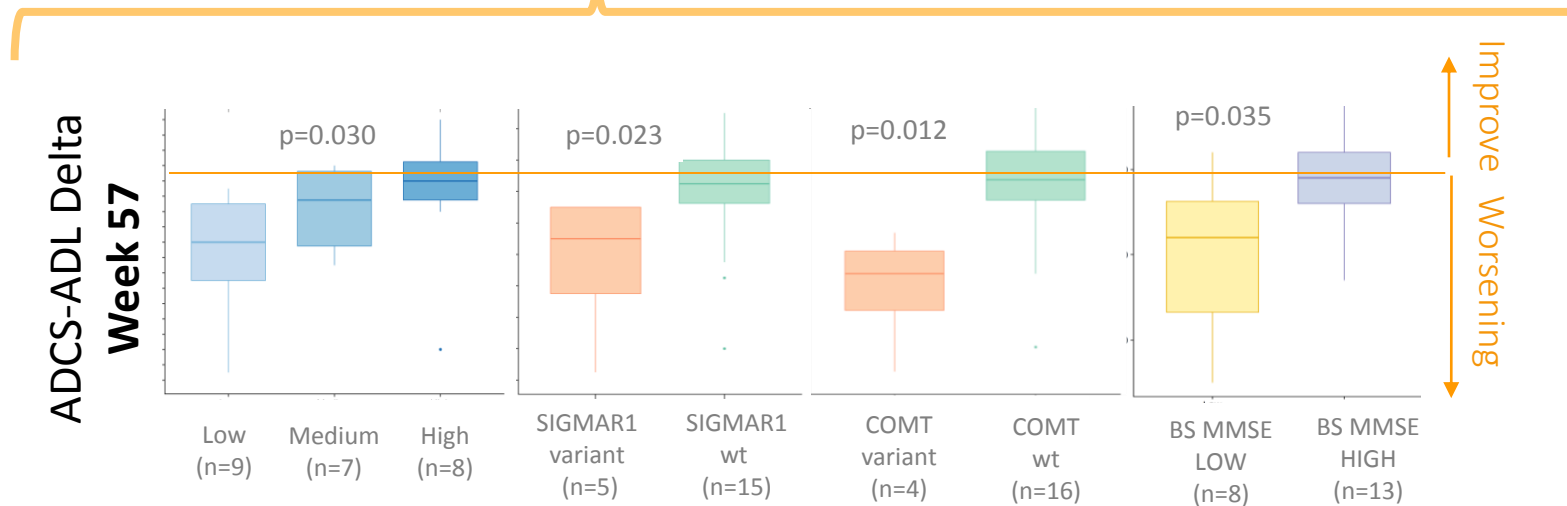
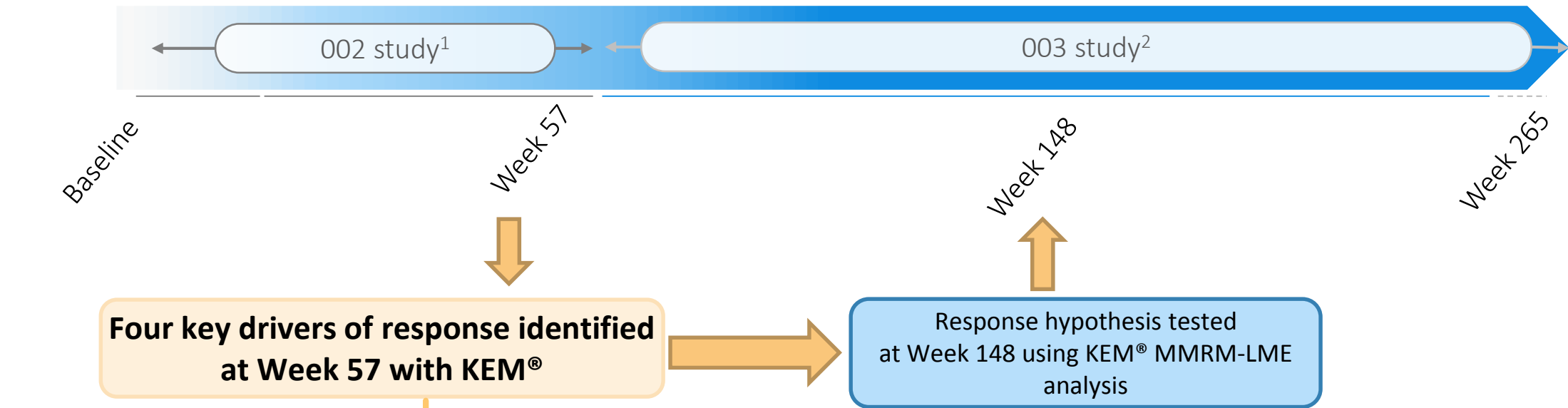
2) SIGMAR1-Q2P variant

3) COMT-Leu146 variant

4) Baseline MMSE

<sup>#</sup> Plasma concentration of ANAVEX<sup>®</sup>2-73 is correlated with the administered dose

# Validating Week 57 Drivers of Clinical Response at Week 148



1) Mean Concentration AV2-73<sup>#</sup> (ng/mL) Part B

2) SIGMAR1-Q2P variant

3) COMT-Leu146 variant

4) Baseline MMSE

<sup>#</sup> Plasma concentration of ANAVEX<sup>®</sup>2-73 is correlated with the administered dose

# Mixed Effect Models for Repeated Measures with Linear Time Effect (MMRM-LME) combined with Parameters extracted with KEM<sup>®</sup>

Mixed Effect Model for Repeated Measures<sup>1</sup> - Linear Mixed Effect<sup>2</sup> :

- Inter-patient variability is modelled over time
- **Time is modelled as a continuous variable**, hence **reducing the number of parameters** used in the adjustments<sup>2</sup> (Mixed Effect Model for Repeated Measures with Linear time effect -MMRM-LME)
- Covariates included and tested in models:

– KEM<sup>®</sup> identified variables:

Variable Name	Variable type	Categories
Concentration	categorical	Low/Med (<4ng/ml) ; High (≥4ng/ml)
Baseline MMSE score	categorical	Low (<20) ; High (≥20)
SIGMAR1-Q2P variant	categorical	Absent ; Present
COMT-L146FS variant	categorical	Absent ; Present

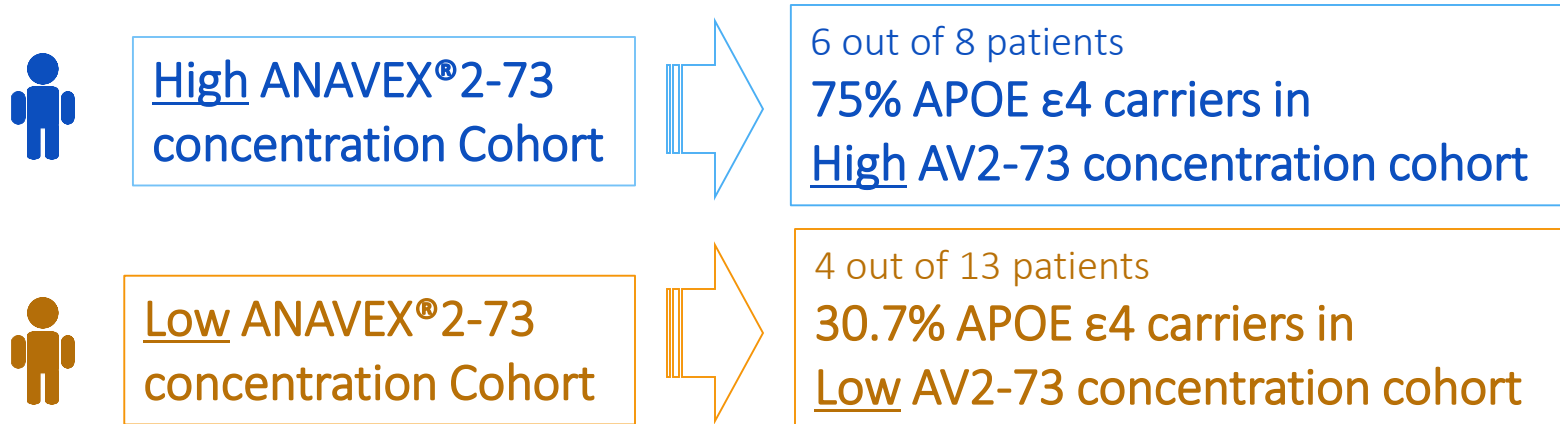
– Other:

APOE ε4 Status	categorical	True; False
Age	categorical	Low; High
Sex	categorical	Female ; Male
Donepezil treatment	categorical	True; False

<sup>1</sup> Lane , P. W. (2008). *Handling drop-out in longitudinal clinical trials: a comparison of the LOCF and MMRM approaches*. *Pharmaceutical Statistics* 7 : 93–106

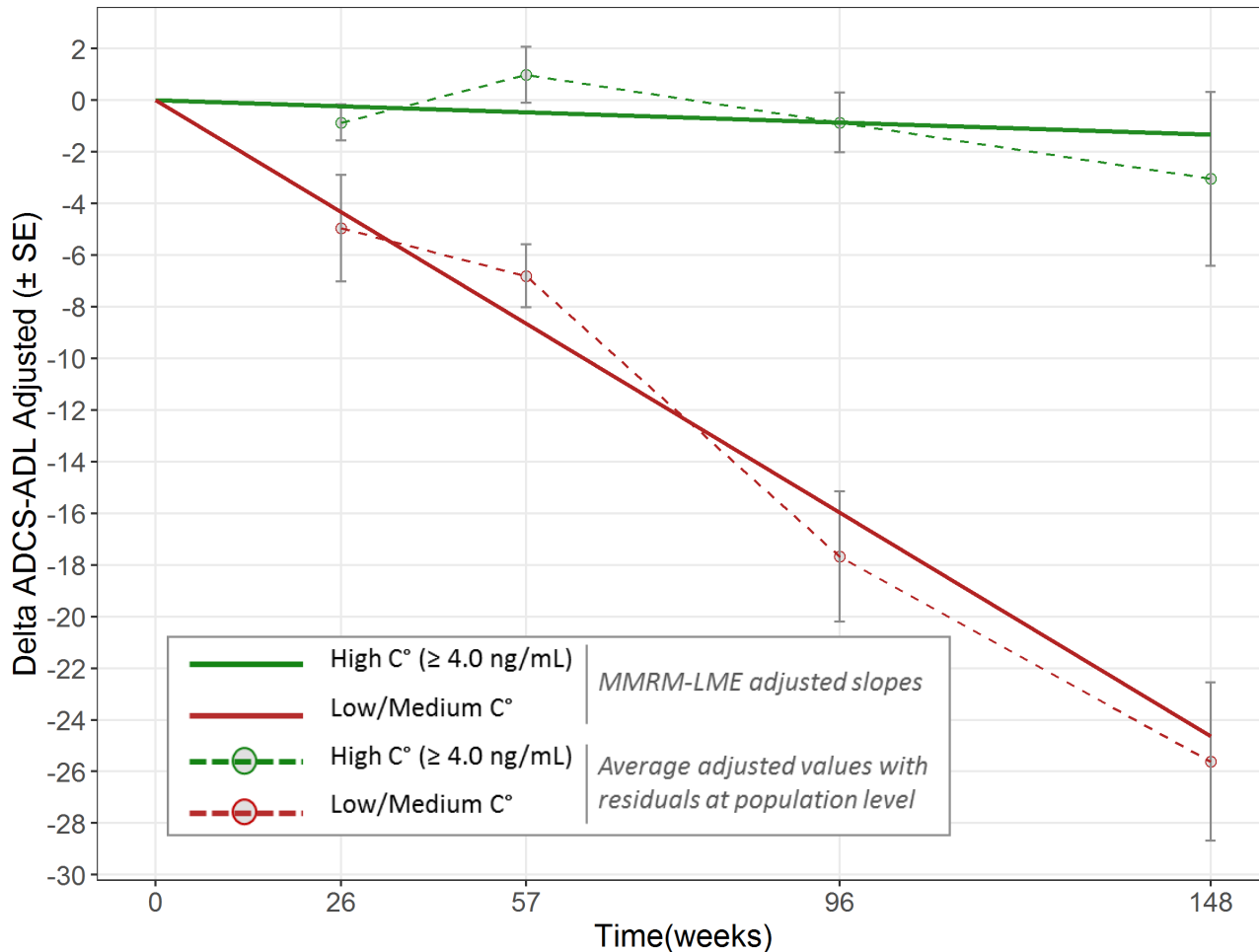
<sup>2</sup> Verbeke , G. , Molenberghs , G. (2000). *Linear Mixed Models for Longitudinal Data*. New York : Springer

# APOE $\epsilon$ 4 Allele Distribution in ANAVEX<sup>®</sup> 2-73 Study



- APOE  $\epsilon$ 4 carriers are **2.4 times more frequent** in the High AV2-73 concentration cohort compared to Low concentration cohort
- APOE  $\epsilon$ 3/ $\epsilon$ 2 carriers are **2.8 times more frequent** in the Low AV2-73 concentration cohort compared to High concentration cohort

# Patients treated with higher ANAVEX® 2-73 Concentration maintain ADCS-ADL<sup>1</sup> Performance over the 148 Week Period, vs lower Concentration cohort (p-value < 0.0001)



## High Concentration cohort shows 88 % difference to low concentration cohort

In addition to Concentration, the significant covariates identified in MMRM-LME model are:

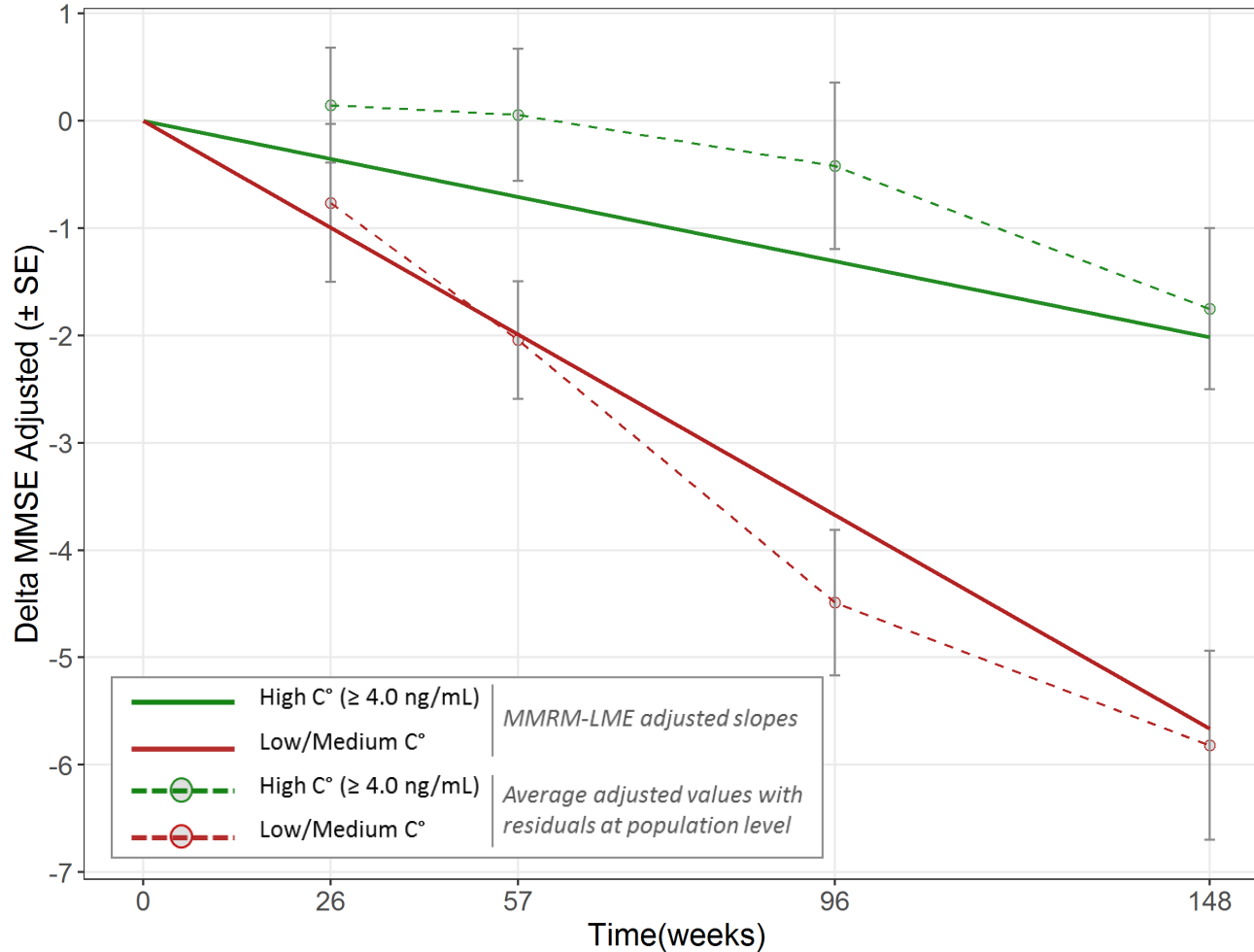
**SIGMAR1** (p<0.0080),  
**COMT** (p<0.0014) and  
**APOE ε4 status** (p<0.0001)

The covariates that are included in the MMRM-LME model for ADCS-ADL change are: time as continuous, AV2-73 concentration group (High and Low/Med), sex, APOE ε4 status, age (Low, High), baseline MMSE score, ongoing Donepezil treatment, SIGMAR1-Q2P, COMT-L146FS variants, interactions between time and concentration group, time and APOE ε4 status, time and SIGMAR1, time and COMT, concentration group and APOE ε4 status, and concentration group and SIGMAR1 variant.

<sup>1</sup>Alzheimer's Disease Co-operative Study – Activities of Daily Living Inventory (ADCS-ADL)



# Patients treated with higher ANAVEX<sup>®</sup>2-73 Concentration show higher cognitive MMSE<sup>1</sup> Performance over 148 Weeks, compared to the lower Concentration (p-value < 0.0008)



**High Concentration cohort shows 64 % less decline than low concentration cohort**

Other significant covariates identified in MMRM-LME model are:  
APOE  $\epsilon$ 4 status (p<0.0001)

Covariates included in the MMRM-LME model for MMSE change are: time as continuous, AV2-73 concentration group (High and Low/Med), APOE  $\epsilon$ 4 status, age (Low, High), baseline MMSE score, SIGMAR1-Q2P variant, interactions between time and concentration group, time and APOE  $\epsilon$ 4 status, time and SIGMAR1, and concentration group and SIGMAR1 variant.

<sup>1</sup>Mini Mental State Examination (MMSE)

# Supporting Precision Medicine Approach and Genomic Biomarker Hypothesis

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## SIGMAR1 / SIGMAR1-Q2P

Genomic biomarker identified using **unbiased systematic analysis** of data rich study

Biomarker valid at **multiple time points and multiple end-points**

SIGMAR1 is **confirmed target** of ANAVEX2-73

SIGMAR1 **Crystal Structure** provides consistent structural rationale

SIGMAR1 **RNA** expression data is consistent

Biomarker hypothesis maintained at **week 148**

## Remarks regarding the ANAVEX<sup>®</sup>2-73-002/003 Studies

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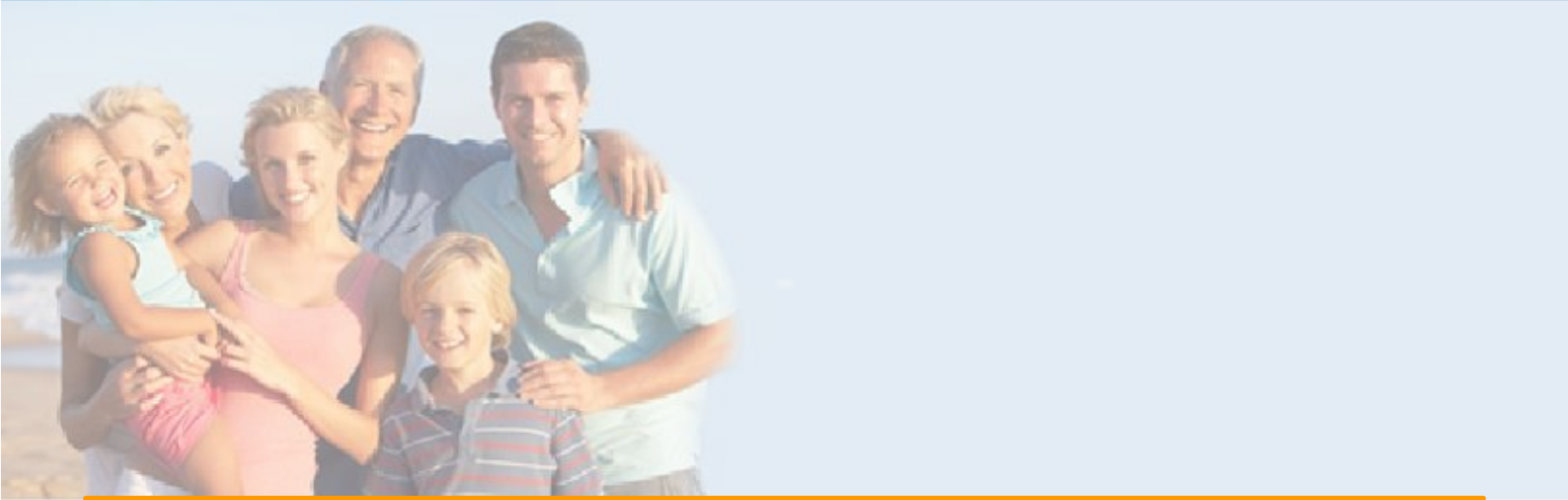
- **Data rich study (scores, PK, DNA, RNA) provides a unique opportunity to characterize response**
- **Combination of data rich study and KEM<sup>®</sup> *unbiased* systematic analysis enables identification of biomarker hypothesis in a small patient population**
- **Longitudinal study provides confirmation of biomarker effect identified at week 57 at week 148**
- **Identified biomarker is consistent with a structural rationale for the mechanism of action of ANAVEX<sup>®</sup>2-73 against its confirmed target SIGMAR1. The consistency of the DNA and RNA findings, as well as the longitudinal effect provides additional strength to the initial biomarker-based hypothesis**

## Conclusions & Perspective

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- The longitudinal 148-week data show that patient cohort with the higher concentration of ANAVEX<sup>®</sup>2-73 maintains the ADCS-ADL score and better perform at MMSE, along the trial duration, when compared to the lower concentration cohort
- A significant impact of SIGMAR1 and COMT biomarkers on the drug response level was confirmed over the 148-week period, irrespective of the fact that *APOE ε4* carriers were more frequent in the higher concentration cohort
- The hypothesis that ANAVEX<sup>®</sup>2-73 induces an improved clinical outcome with adequate effect size holds
- Results demonstrate robustness by using both DNA- and RNA-based biomarkers, multiple endpoints and time points. Excluding the patients with the two identified biomarker variants (approximately 20% of the population), the resulting 80% of the enrolled population would lead to further clinically significant improved functional and cognitive scores
- The combination of KEM<sup>®</sup> FCA and MMRM-LME data analysis methodologies shows the innovative ability to identify early biomarkers in clinical trials with small size-population recruited
- This study supports the study design of the initiated ANAVEX<sup>®</sup>2-73 studies in several indications underway, including a Phase 2b/3 study in 450 patients with early Alzheimer's disease
- This approach may expand the access to Precision Medicine and Precision Pharmacology for a wide range of neurodegenerative diseases

# Acknowledgments



## Thanks to:

- Principal Investigators & clinical sites' study staff
- Data safety review committee
- Anavex SAB
- Most of all, grateful acknowledgement of the contribution of the participating AD patients and their caregivers



# Contact Us

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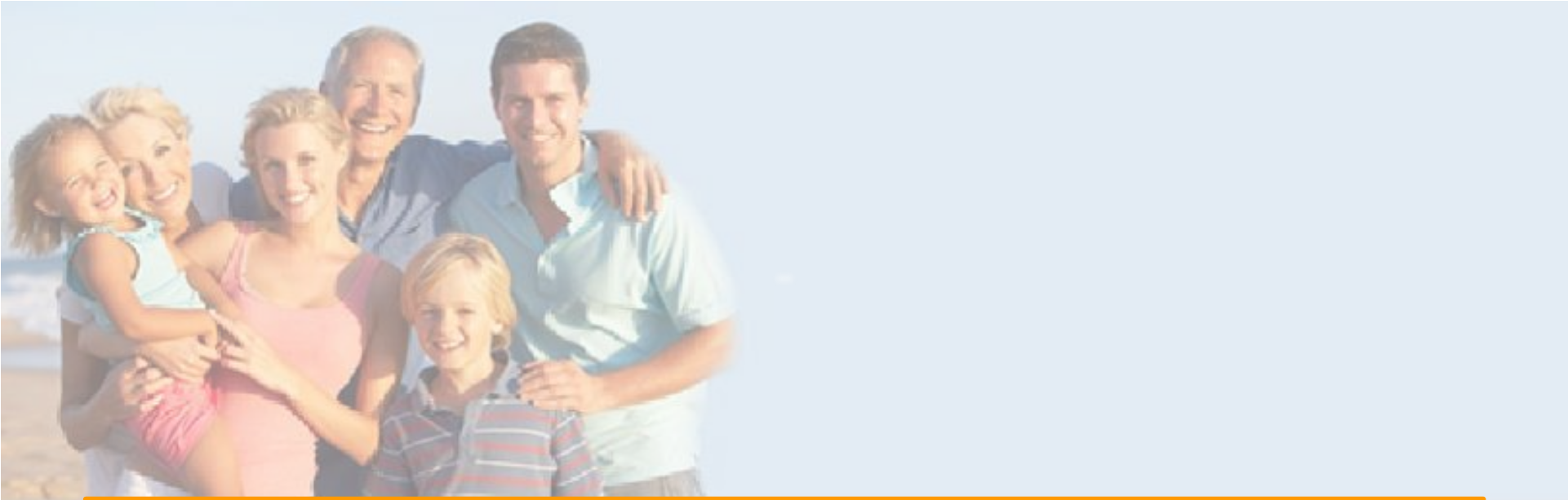
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## Shareholder & Media Relations:

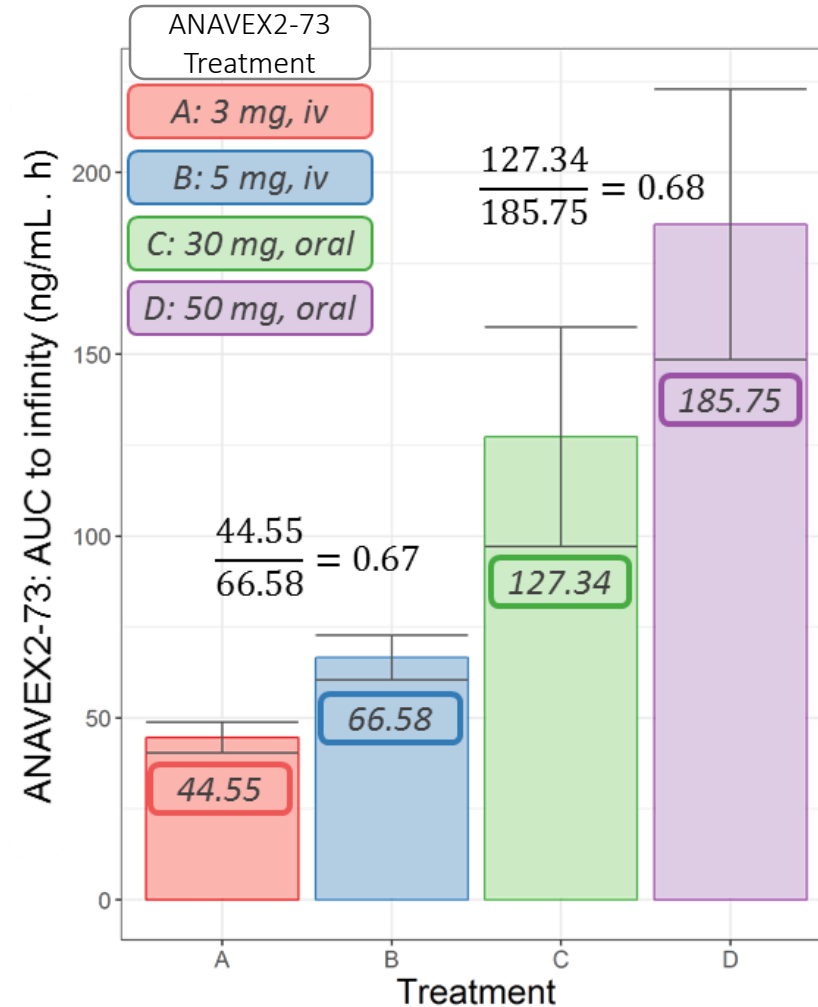
Core IR  
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# Backup Slides



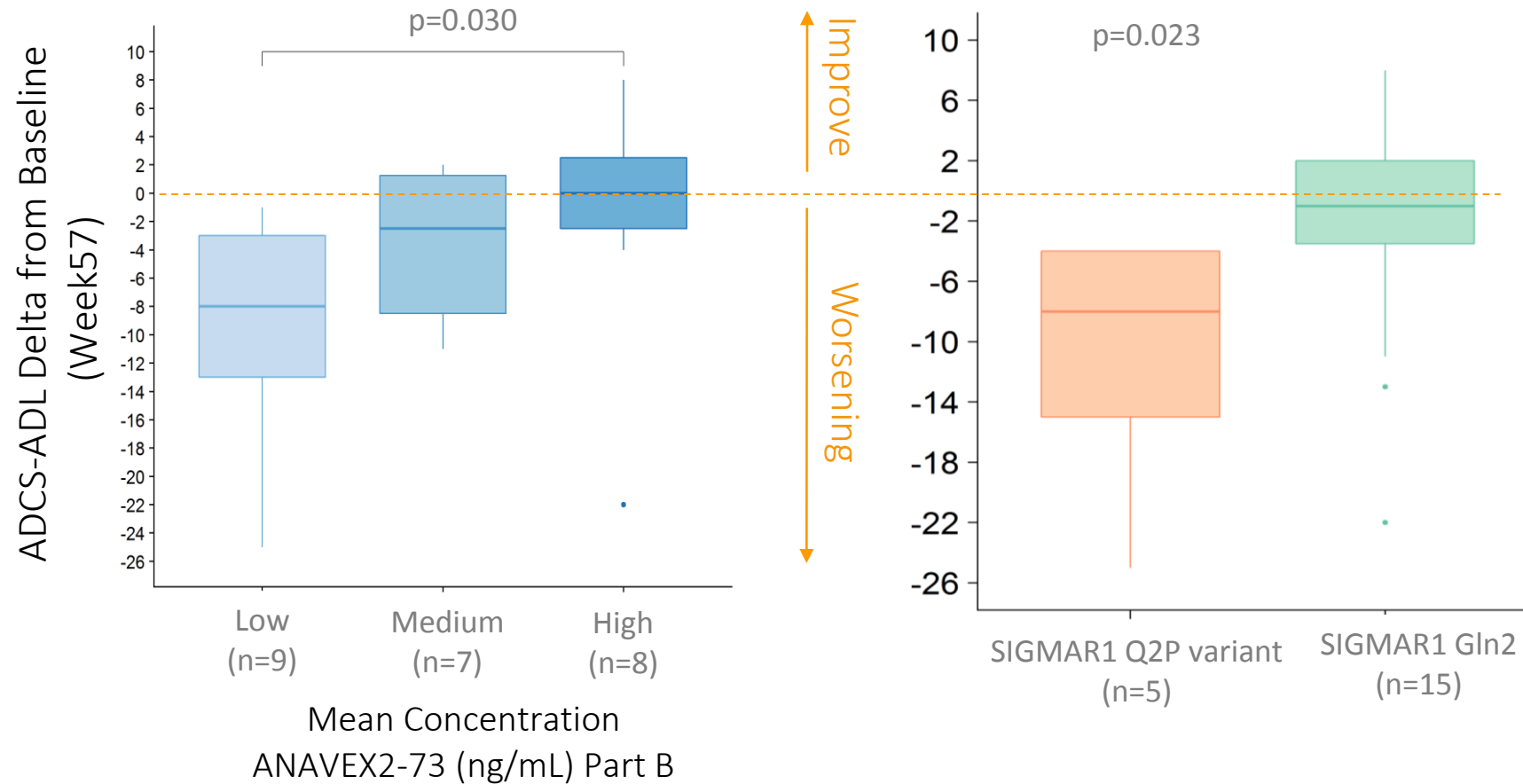
# Plasma Concentration of ANAVEX<sup>®</sup>2-73 is Correlated with the Administered Dose

Phase 2a Study Part A  
Total average drug exposure over time  
 $AUC_{(0 \text{ to infinity})}$   
Area Under the Curve, 0-24h





# KEM<sup>®</sup> Analysis: Higher ANAVEX<sup>®</sup>2-73 Concentration and Exclusion of SIGMAR1-Q2P Variant linked to Improved Response at Week 57

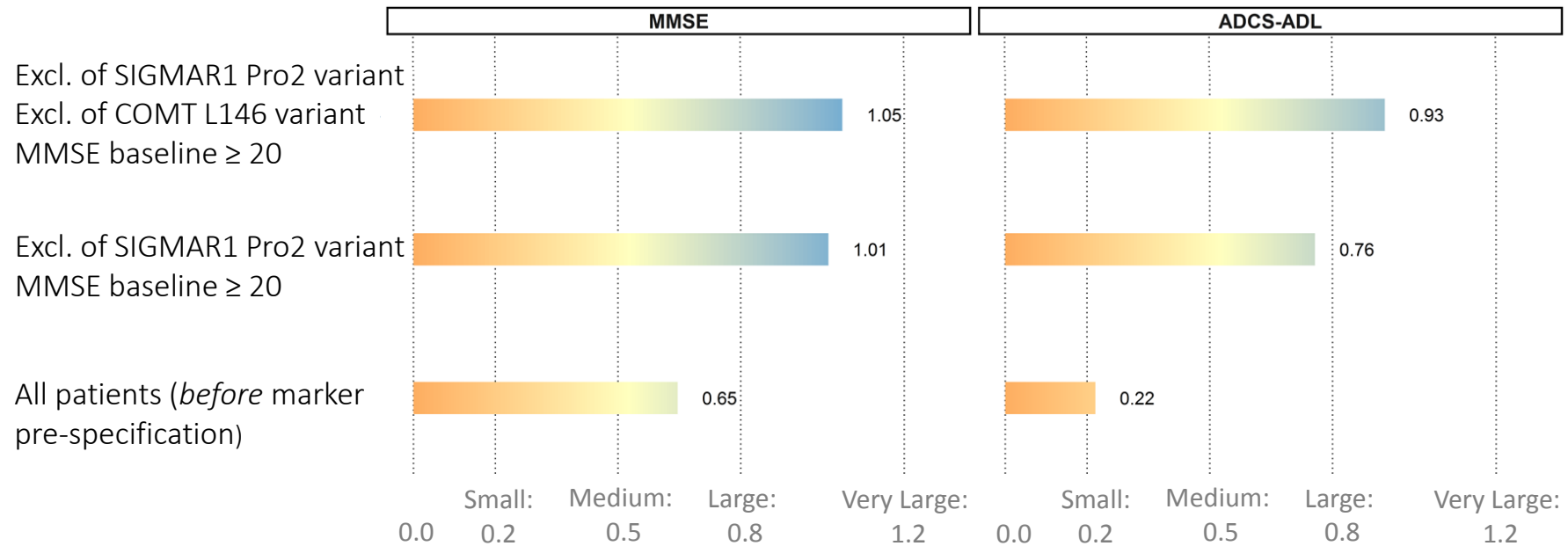


Results for change in ADCS-ADL scores at Week 57. Similar significant relationships were also found for change in MMSE scores.

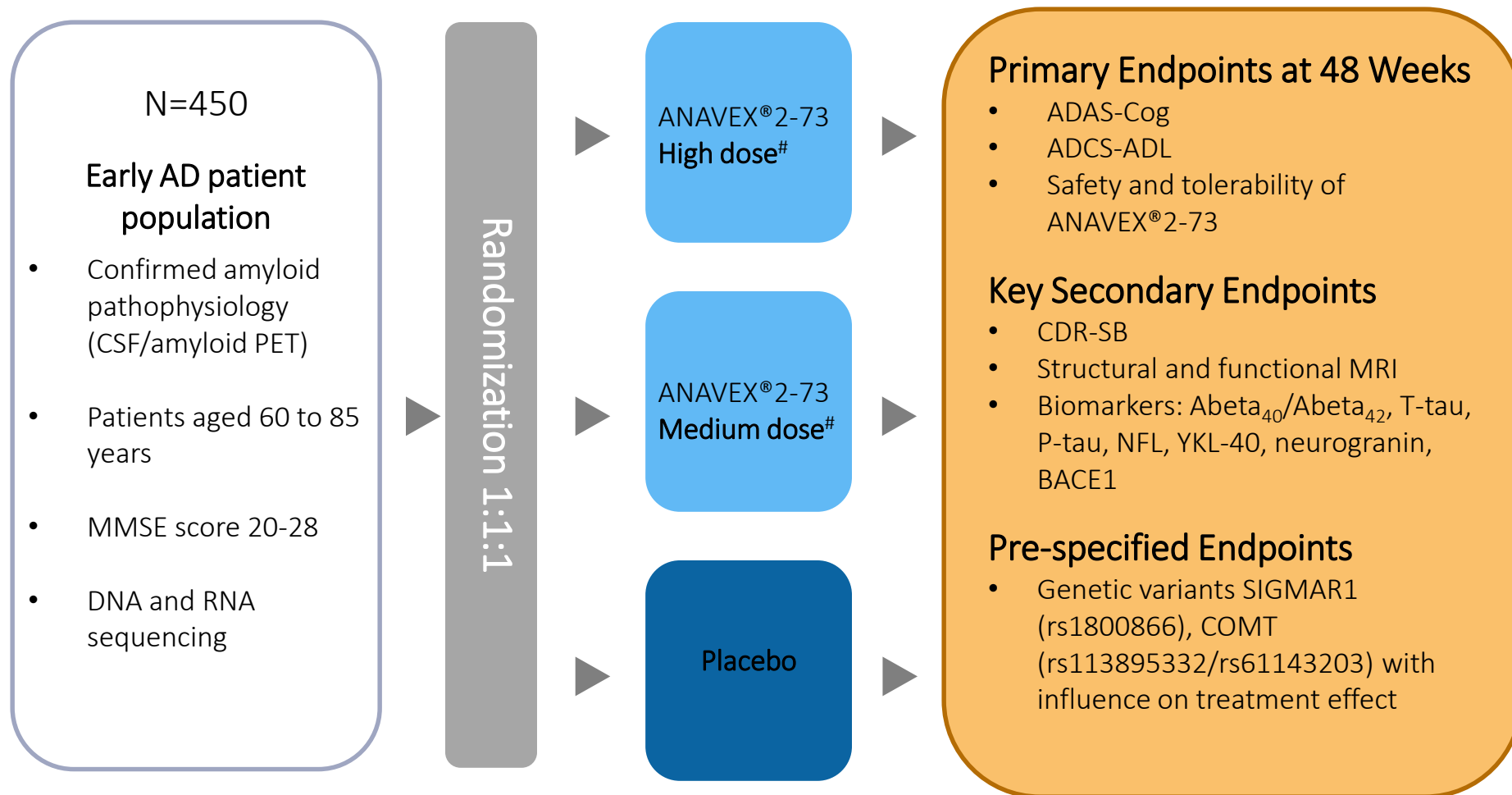
# Gene Markers and Baseline Characteristics improve Effect Size (Cohen's d) with ANAVEX<sup>®</sup>2-73

A higher Cohen's d implies less patients are needed to show a significant difference between placebo arm and ANAVEX<sup>®</sup>2-73 arm in a clinical study

## Improvement of Scores in Week 57 from Baseline



# ANAVEX<sup>®</sup>2-73 Phase 2b/3 Alzheimer's Disease Ongoing Study



<sup>#</sup> Restricted to maintain complete blinding

# Creating a Precision Medicine Franchise

ANAVEX<sup>®</sup>2-73

Novel target  
SIGMAR1  
(homeostasis)

Longitudinal  
trial, extensive  
PK/PD,  
Initial safety  
established

Multiple  
longitudinal end  
Points  
(cognition:  
MMSE,  
function: ADCS-  
ADL)

**Extensive  
Genomics  
from NGS  
(RNA, DNA)**

Omic Platform

Multiple  
potential  
indications