

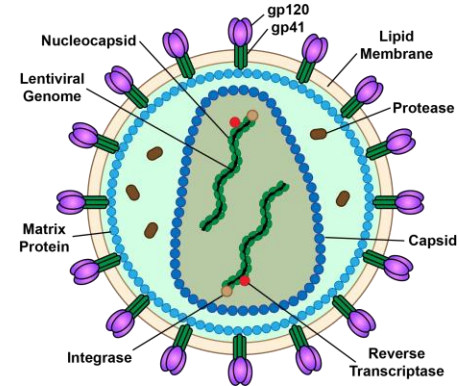


**Naldini Luigi**  
 Professore ordinario  
 Medicina  
 BIO/17



**UniSR**  
 Università Vita-Salute  
 San Raffaele

# Lentiviral Vectors



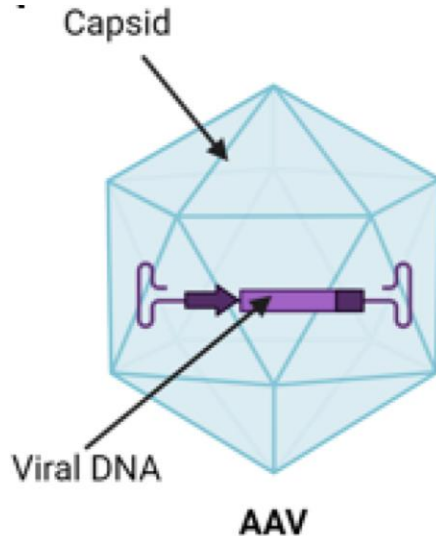
## Tigem, Alberto Auricchio è il nuovo direttore

Si apre un nuovo capitolo di una storia lunga 30 anni: Andrea Ballabio, alla guida dell'Istituto fin dalla sua nascita nel 1994, passa il testimone

di Francesca Cerati  
 15 aprile 2024

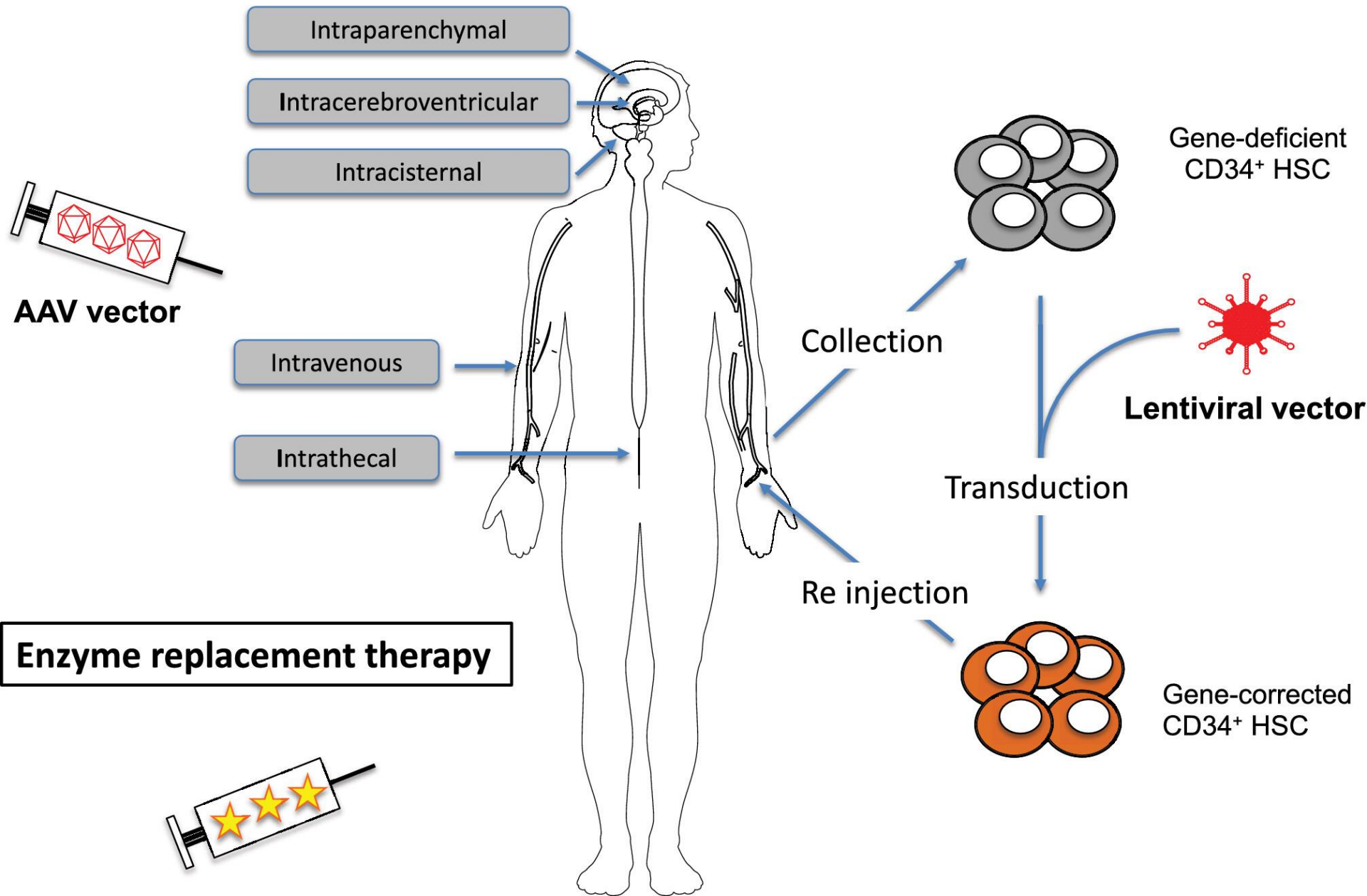


# Adeno-Associated Vectors

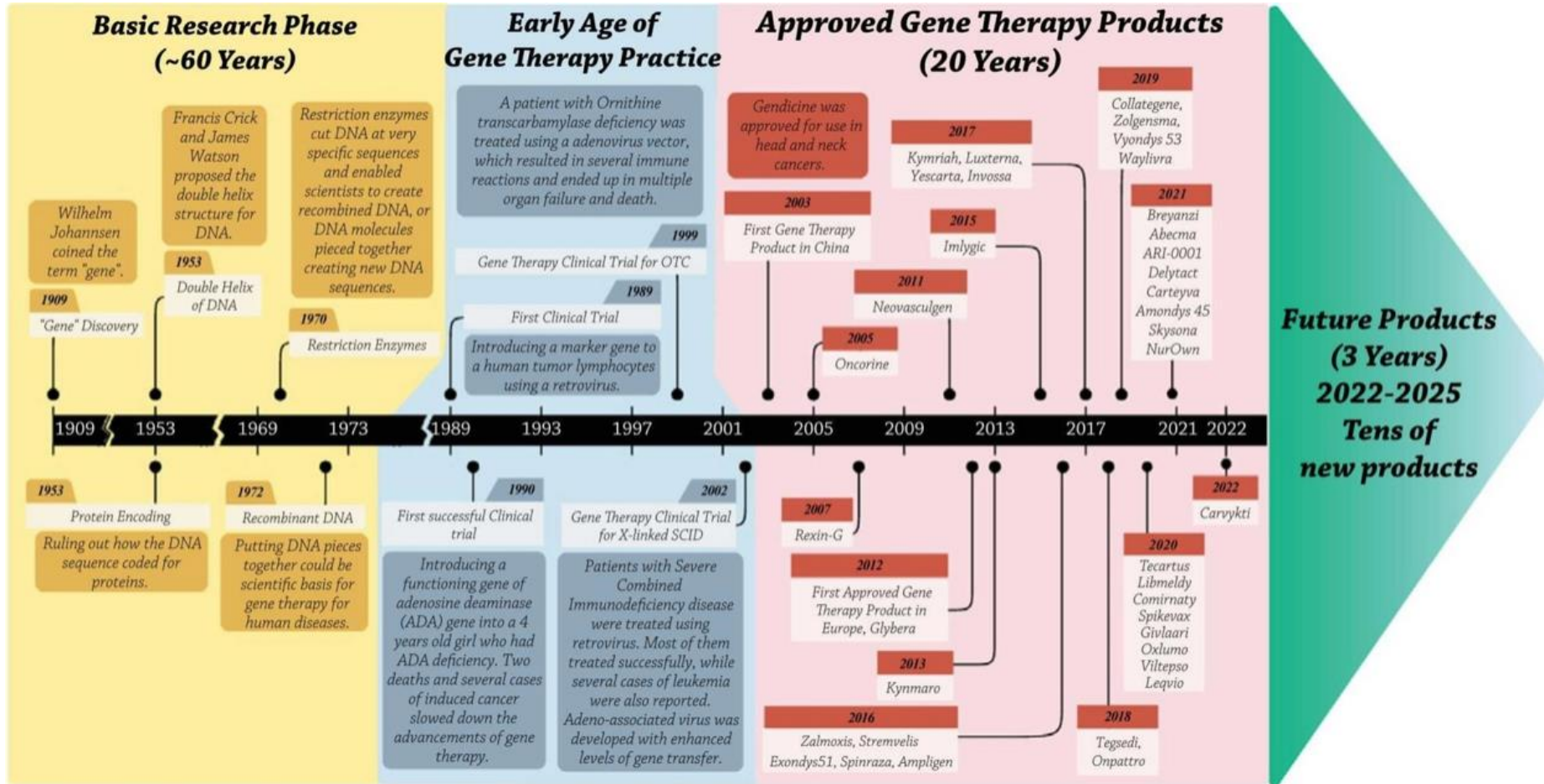


# IN VIVO gene therapy

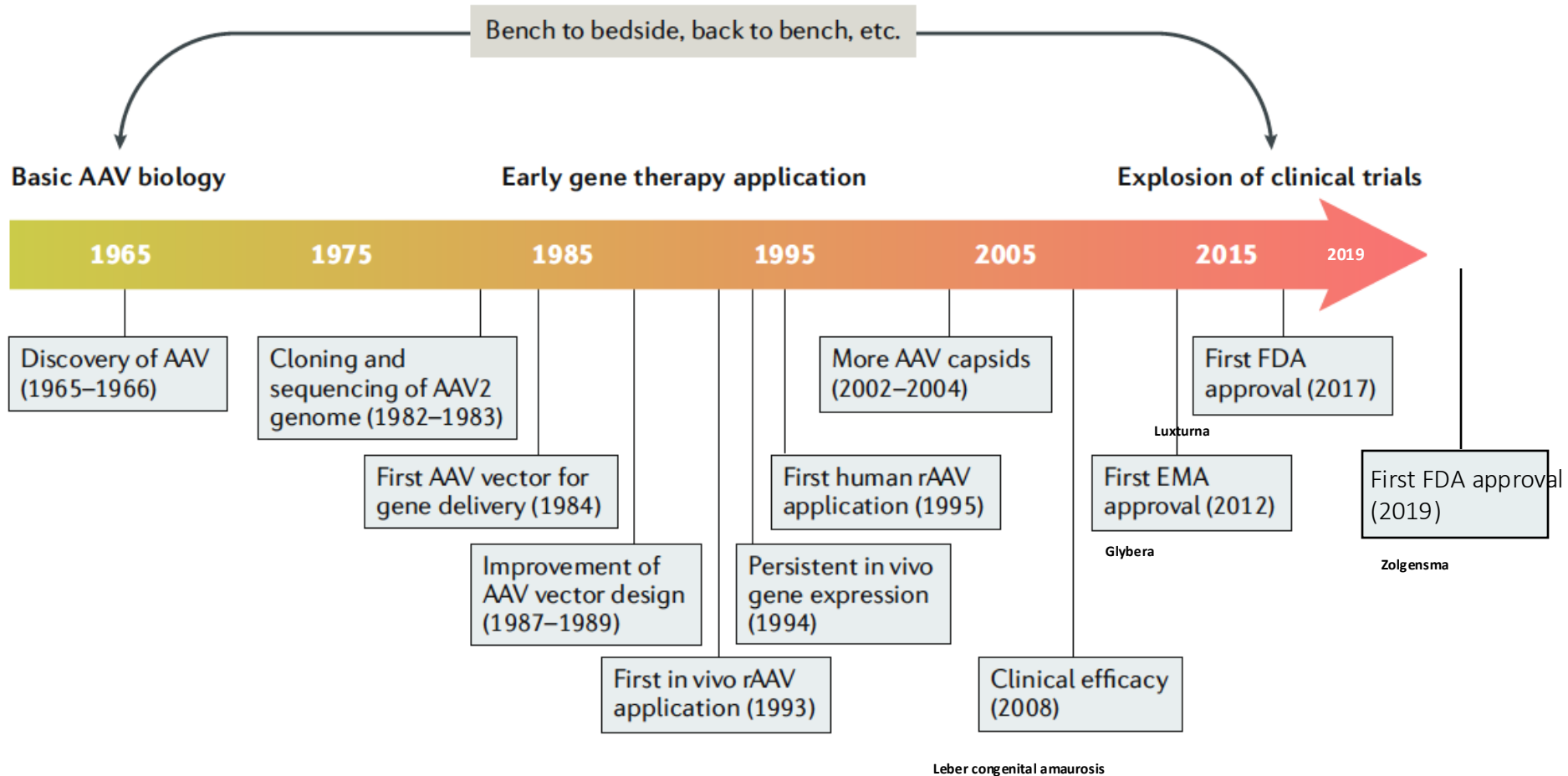
# EX VIVO gene therapy



# A glance at the journey of gene therapy



# 50 years of AAV



# Adeno-associated virus (AAV)

## Taxonomy

Family: Parvovirus

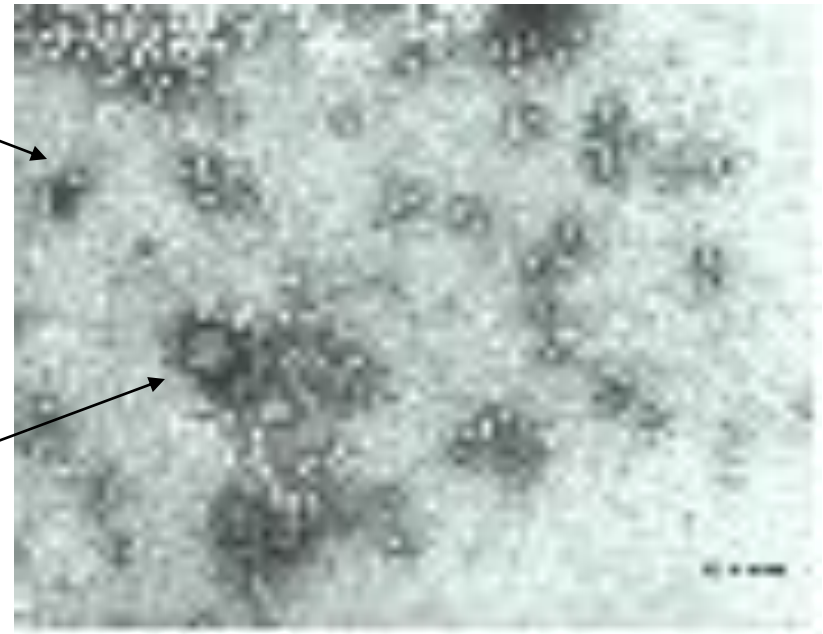
Subfamily: Parvoviridae

Genus: Dependovirus

Type: AAV 1-12

AAV

Ad

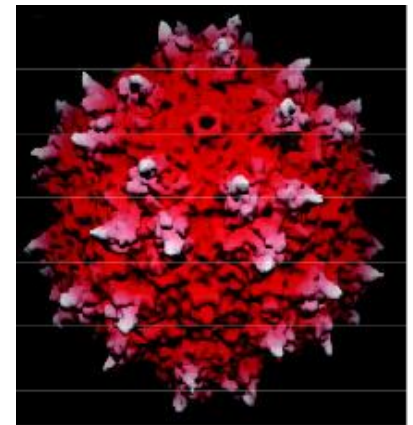


## Morphology

Particles are icosahedral, non-enveloped, 18-26 nm diameter, 50% protein (VP1-3) 50% DNA. Resistant to inactivation by solvents, pH and heat.

## Genome

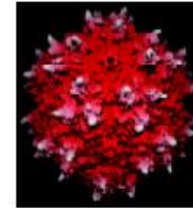
Linear, non-segmented, ssDNA ~5 kb.  
AAVs package equal amounts of (+) and (-) strands.



Xie et al. 2002

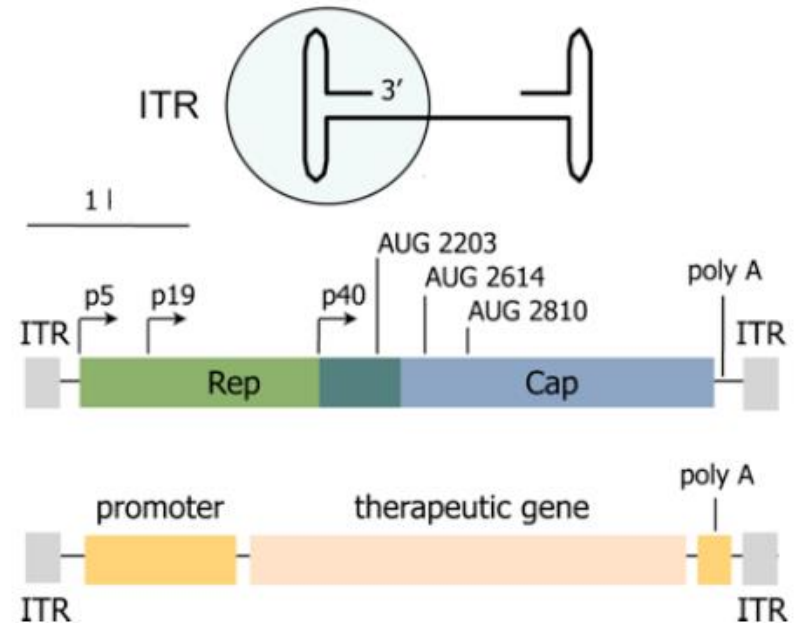
# Gene transfer using Adeno-Associated Virus (AAV) vectors

1. Based on a widely diffused, non pathogenic virus
2. Vectors retain less than 10% of the viral genome
3. Vectors do not express any viral protein (not inflammatory and not immunogenic); long term ensured in vivo
4. Expression of the therapeutic gene can be driven by any desirable promoter
5. High titer vector preparations are obtained by virion purification
6. Mixing of different rAAV preparations results in the simultaneous expression of gene combinations in vivo

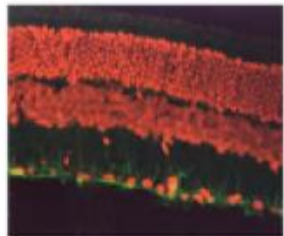


Xie et al. 2002

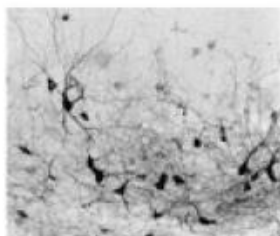
Family: Parvovirus  
Genus: Dependovirus  
Type: AAV 1-9  
Size: 18-26 nm  
Genome: ssDNA ~5 kb



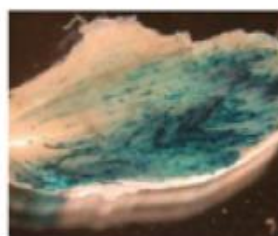
AAV vectors transduce with high efficiency post-mitotic tissues in vivo



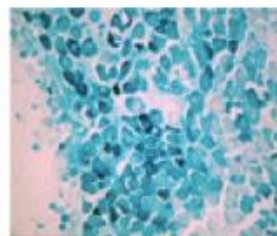
Retina, AAV2-GFP



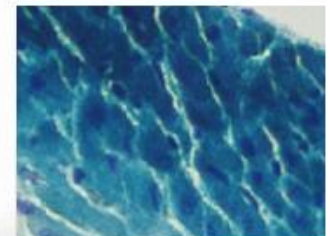
Brain, AAV2-bcl2



Muscle, AAV8-βgal



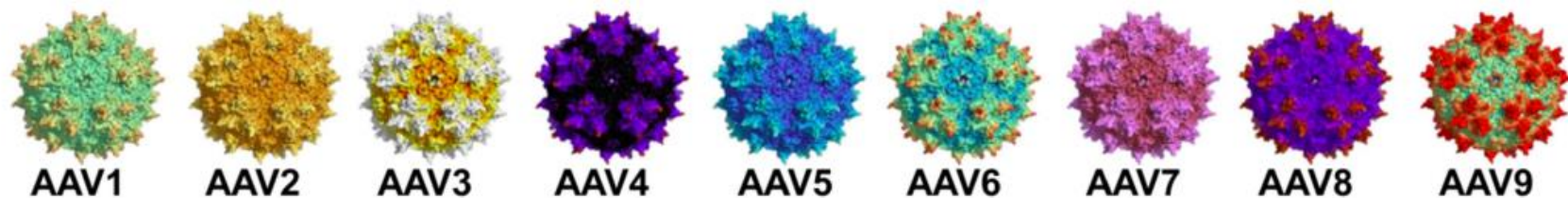
Heart, AAV9-βgal



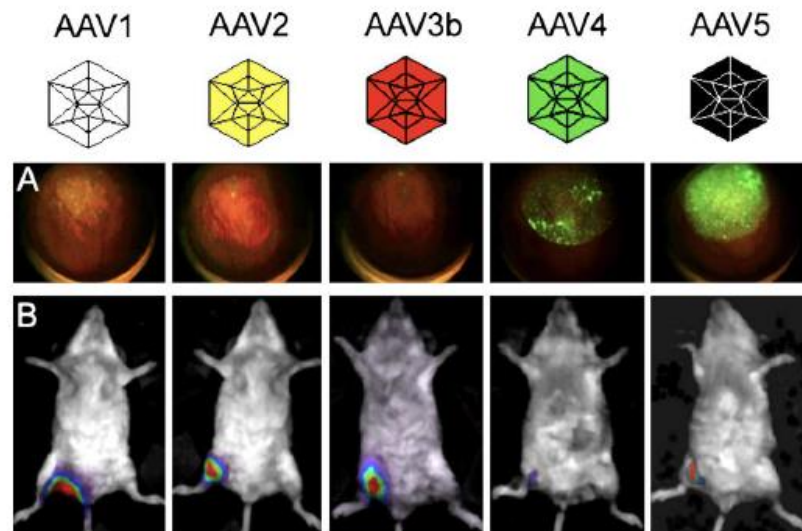
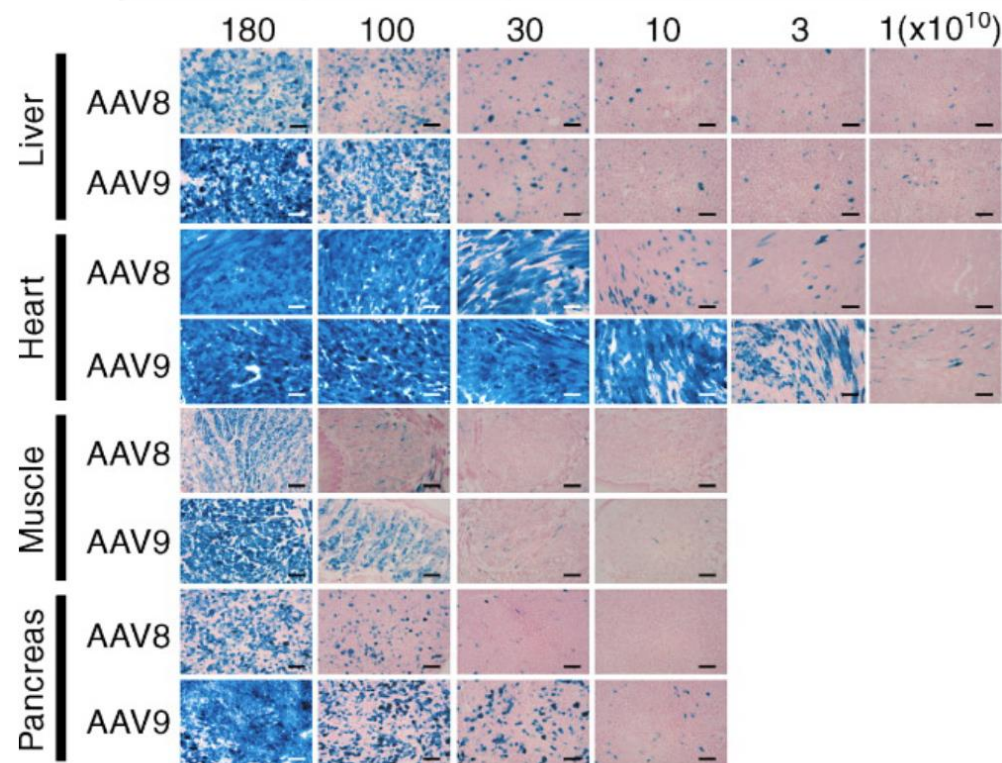
# Recettori di alcuni Parvovirus

Parvovirus	Recettore
AAV1	Acido sialico (legami $\alpha$ 2-3-N e $\alpha$ 2-6-N)
AAV2	Proteoglicani contenenti eparan-solfati (HSPG) Corecettori: integrina $\alpha$ 5, FGFR1, HGF-R
AAV3	Proteoglicani contenenti eparan-solfati (HSPG)
AAV4	Acido sialico (legami $\alpha$ 2-3-O)
AAV5	Acido sialico (legami $\alpha$ 2-3-O e $\alpha$ 2-3-N) Recettore del PDGF (PDGFR)
AAV6	Acido sialico (legami $\alpha$ 2-3-N e $\alpha$ 2-6-N)
AAV7	Non noto
AAV8	Recettore della laminina (LamR)
AAV9	Non noto (LamR?)
Parvovirus B19	Antigene P dei globuli rossi
CPV (parvovirus canino)	Recettore della transferrina Acido sialico (acido N-glicolil-neuraminico, NeuGC)
FPV (parvovirus della panleucopenia felina)	Recettore della transferrina

# Biodistribution of AAV serotypes 1-9 in mice



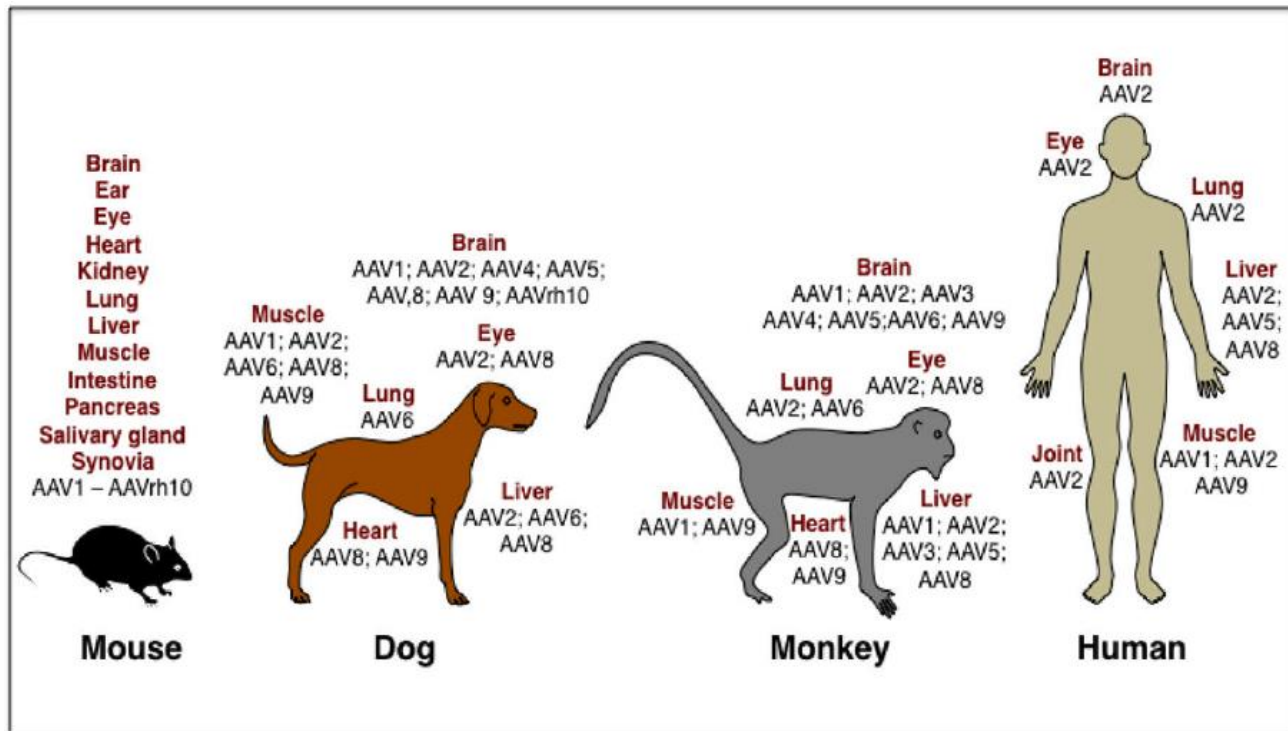
<b>Mouse</b>	Liver, heart, skeletal muscle	Liver, heart and muscle	Heart, Liver	Heart, lung, Liver	Liver	Liver, heart, skeletal muscle	Liver, skeletal muscle	Heart, Liver, brain, muscle	Liver, heart, brain, Lung, skeletal muscle
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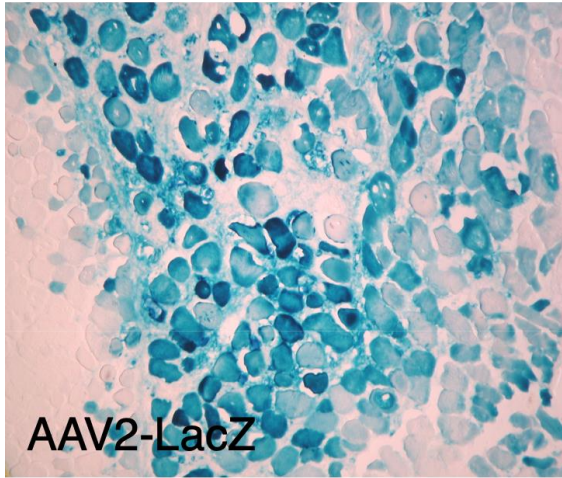


# Criteria for the choice of the AAV serotype to use as a gene transfer vector

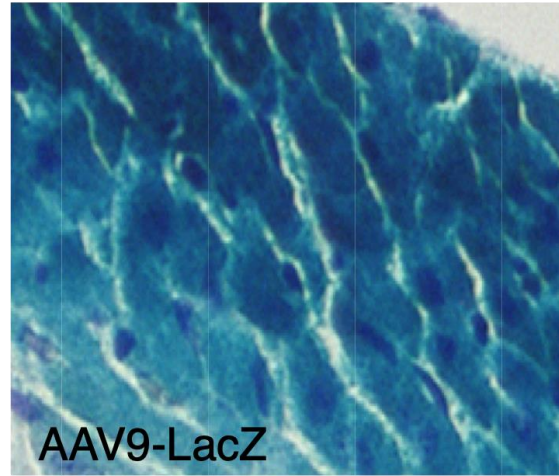
- ★ Which cell/tissue types are being targeted
- ★ The safety profile associated with the delivered gene
- ★ The choice of systemic versus local delivery
- ★ The use of tissue-specific or constitutively active promoters
- ★ Which animal species is the final target



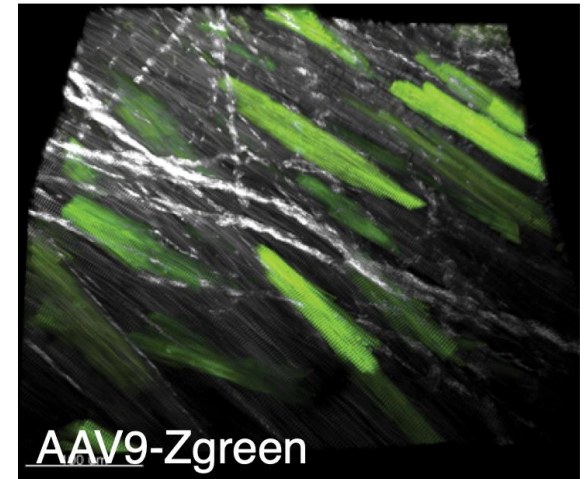
# AAV efficiently transduces permissive tissues and promotes persistent transgene expression



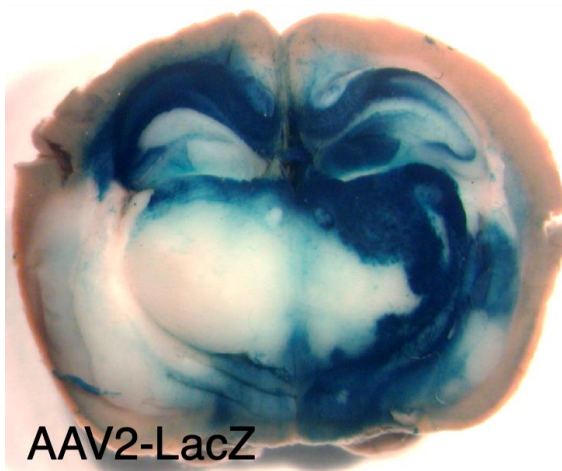
Skeletal muscle



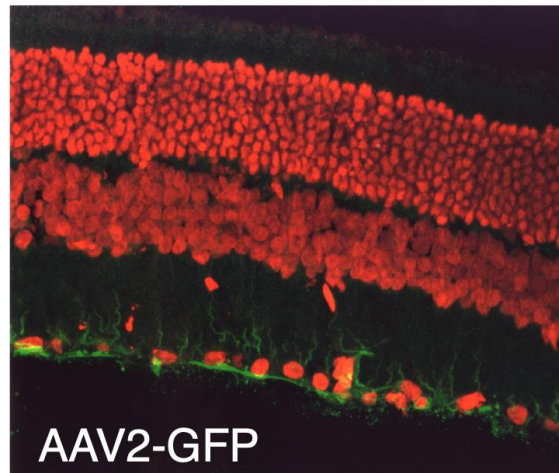
Heart



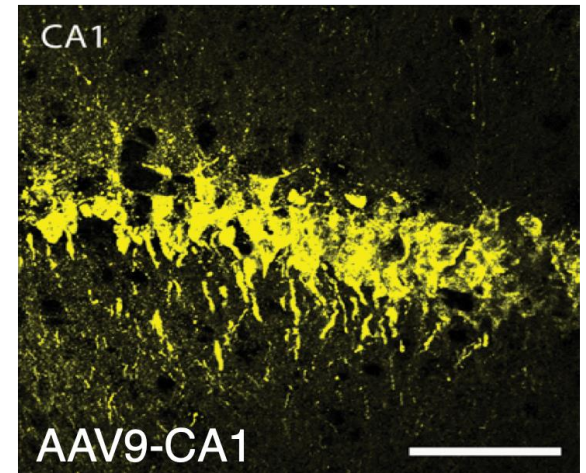
Cardiomyocytes



Brain

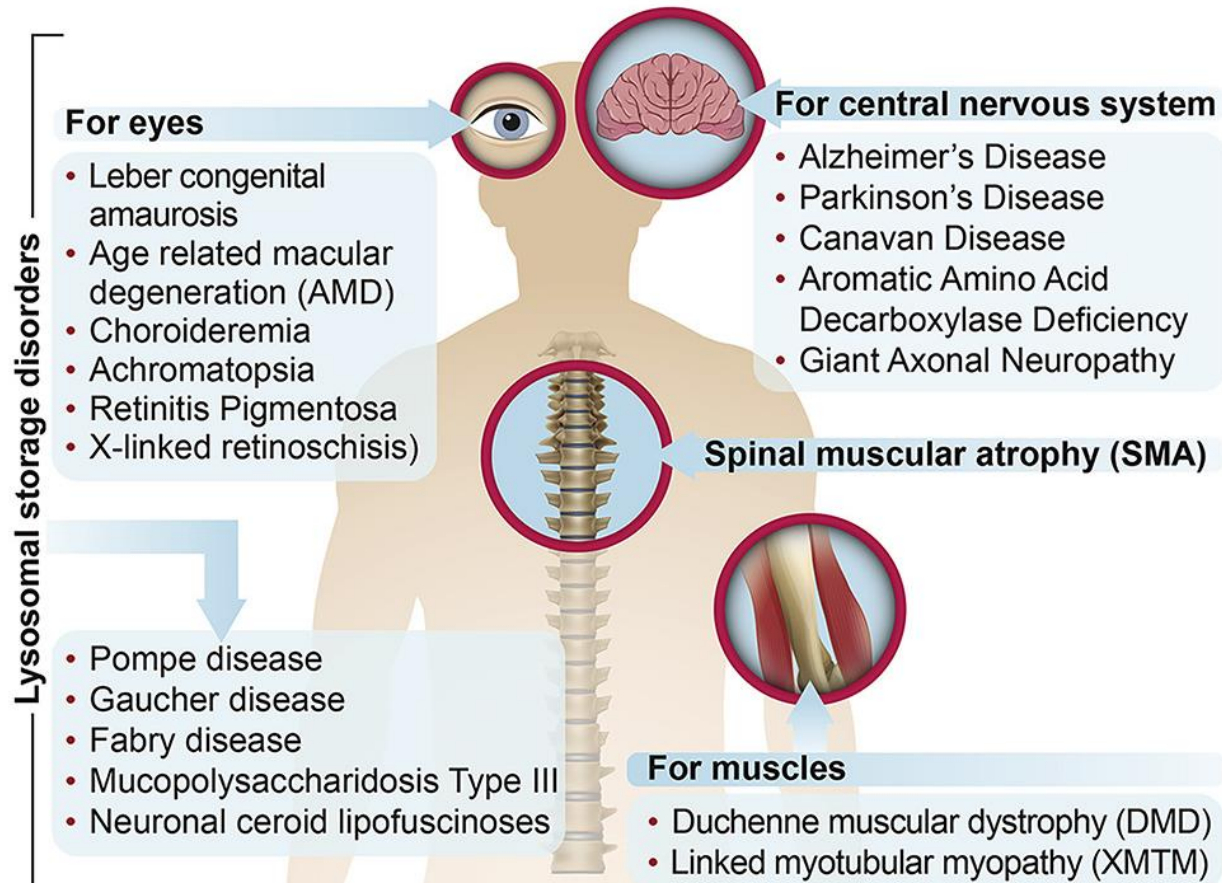


Retina



Neurons

# In vivo Gene Therapy with AAVs



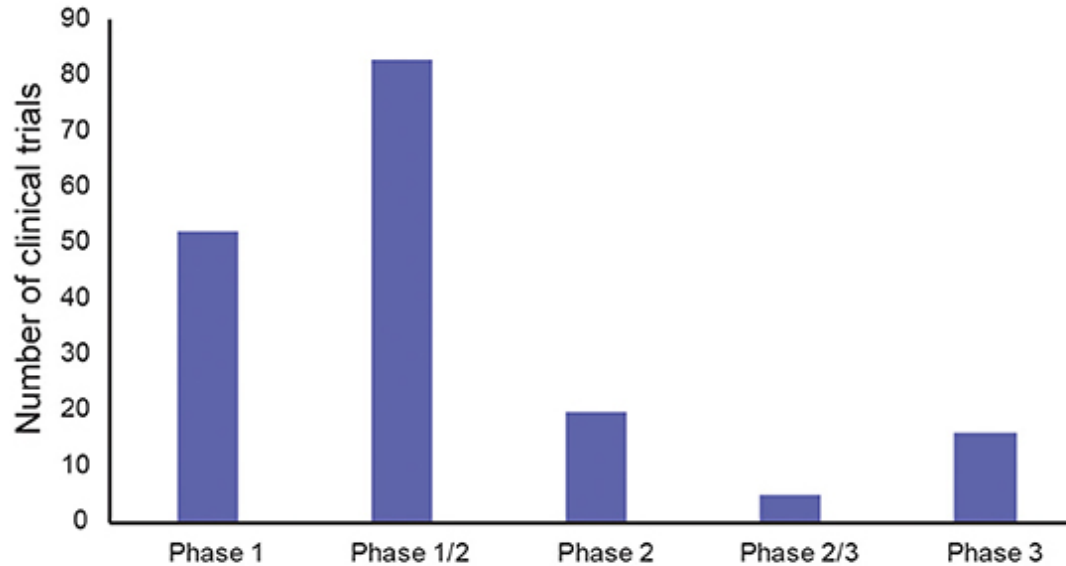
## Retinal gene therapy

Type 2 Leber congenital amaurosis	AAV2 vector; unilateral subretinal administration.	5	36	In all 5 patients, stable improvement in visual sensitivity seen.	NCT00516477	94, 97
Type 2 Leber congenital amaurosis	AAV2 vector; unilateral subretinal administration.	3	54 to 72	In all 3 patients, improvement in visual sensitivity seen at 6 months, which increased for 1 to 3 years and then declined.	NCT00481546	95
Type 2 Leber congenital amaurosis	AAV2 vector; unilateral subretinal administration.	12	36	In 6 patients, improvement in visual sensitivity seen, which peaked at 6 to 12 months and then declined.	NCT00643747	96

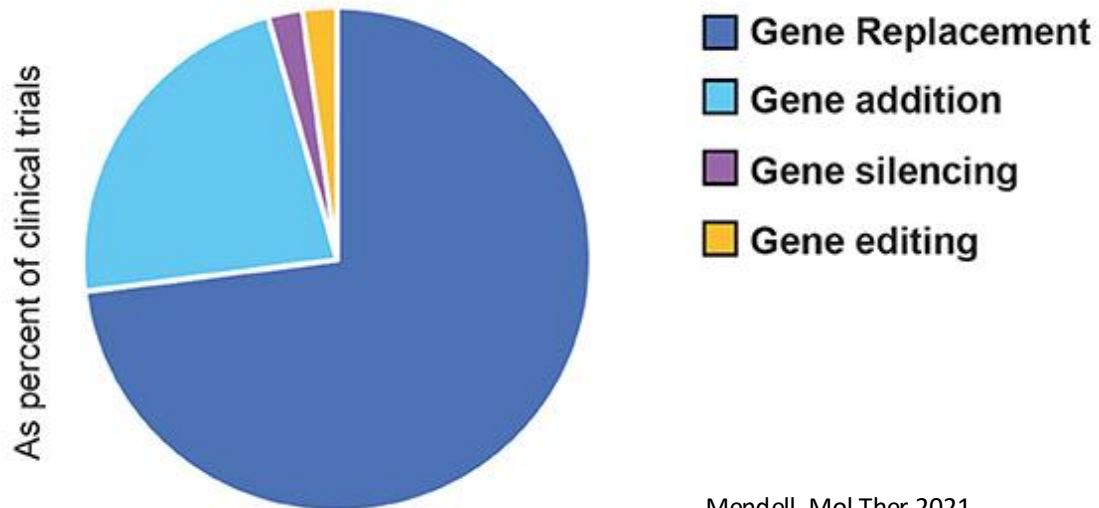
## Liver-directed gene therapy

Haemophilia B	AAV8 vector; intravenous administration.	10	16 to 48	No inhibitors; persistent FIX expression; in high-dose group, mean FIX levels of $5.1 \pm 1.7\%$ seen in all 6 treated patients.	NCT00979238	40
Haemophilia B	AAV8 vector; intravenous administration.	7	Up to 12	No inhibitors; persistent FIX expression in 1 patient.	NCT01687608	110

## Current status of the clinical phases



## Gene Therapy Approaches



# Gene therapy AAV products that have obtained the approval by FDA in USA and by Ema in Europe

Name	Marketing Authorization Holder	Disease	Viral Vector
<b>GLYBERA</b> <small>Alipogene tiparvovec</small>	UniQure Netherlands	LPLD Lipoprotein lipase Deficiency	AAV1
<b>LUXTURNA</b> <small>Voretigene neparvovec</small>	Spark Eupharma	RPE65 mutation-associated blindness	AAV2
<b>ZOLGESMA</b> <small>Onasemnogene a besparvovec</small>	Novartis	SMA spinal muscular atrophy	AAV9
<b>UPSTAZA</b> <small>Ela docagene exuparvovec</small>	PTC Therapeutics International Limited	Severe deficiency of aromatic L-amino acid decarboxylase (AADC)	AAV2
<b>HEMGENIX</b> <small>Etranacogene dezaparvovec</small>	CSL Behring LLC.	Haemophilia B (congenital Factor IX deficiency).	AAV5
<b>ROCTAVIAN</b> <small>Valoctocogene roxaparvovec</small>	BioMarin International Limited.	Haemophilia A (congenital Factor VIII deficiency)	AAV5

# Peculiarities of the eye as a target for gene therapy

The eye is a site of immune-privilege

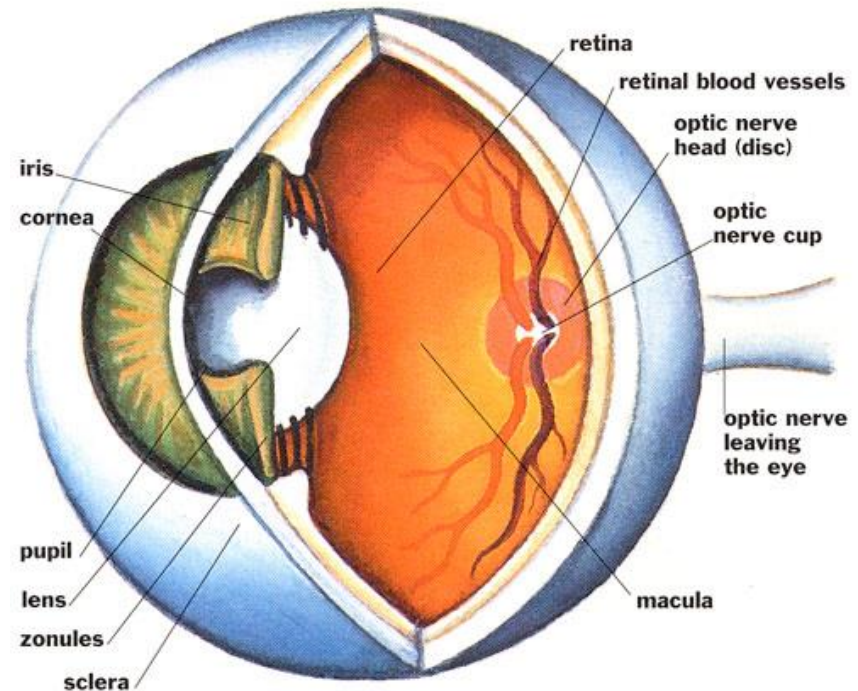
Most cells in the post-natal eye are terminally differentiated and prone to degenerative processes

Its compartmentalized anatomy (blood-retina barrier) enables local vector delivery in small volume with low likelihood of systemic dissemination

The eye is readily accessible for *in vivo* assessment by optical imaging and electrophysiological techniques

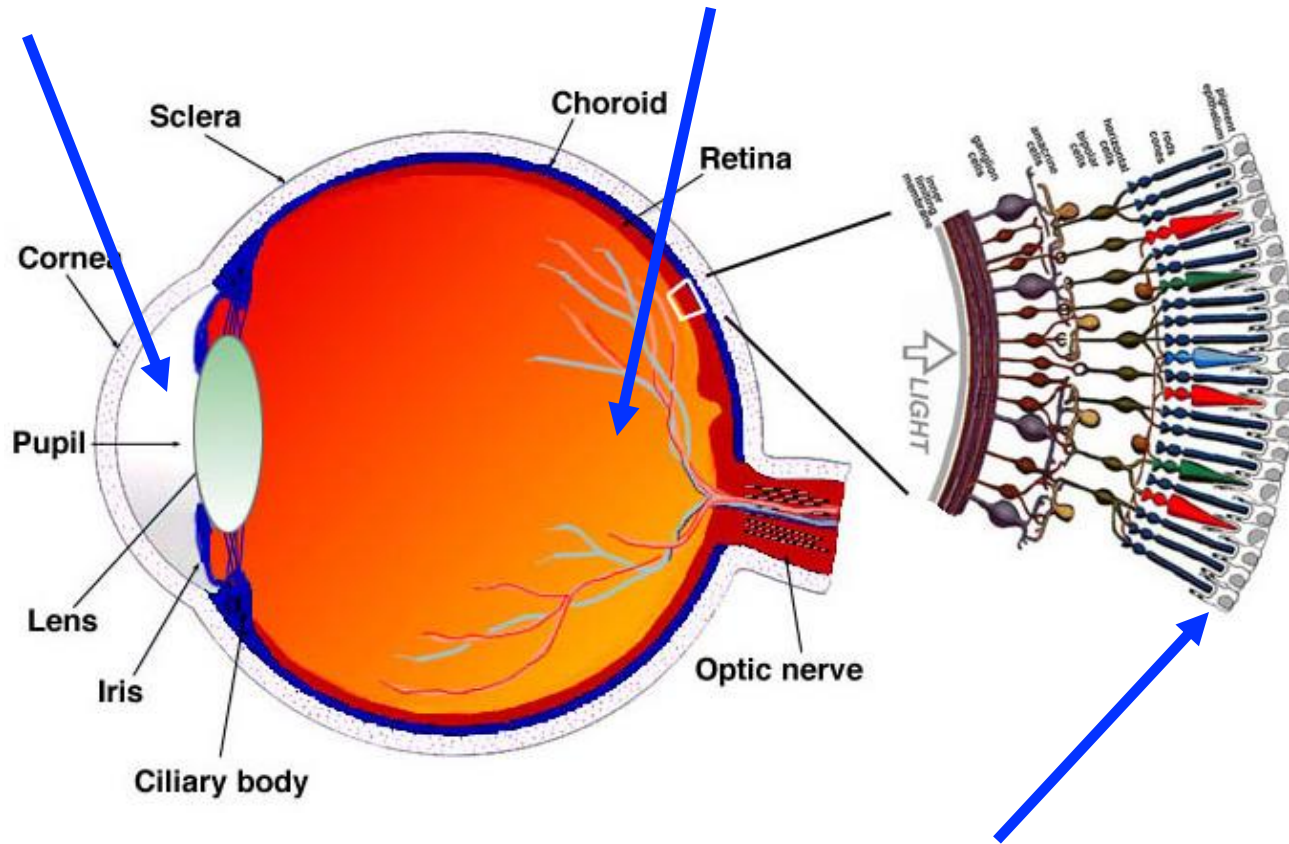
The results of the first clinical trials for ocular cancer and angiogenic disease have now been reported. One trial of gene replacement therapy for inherited retinal degeneration commenced recently and further such trials are expected to begin imminently

There are many animal models available



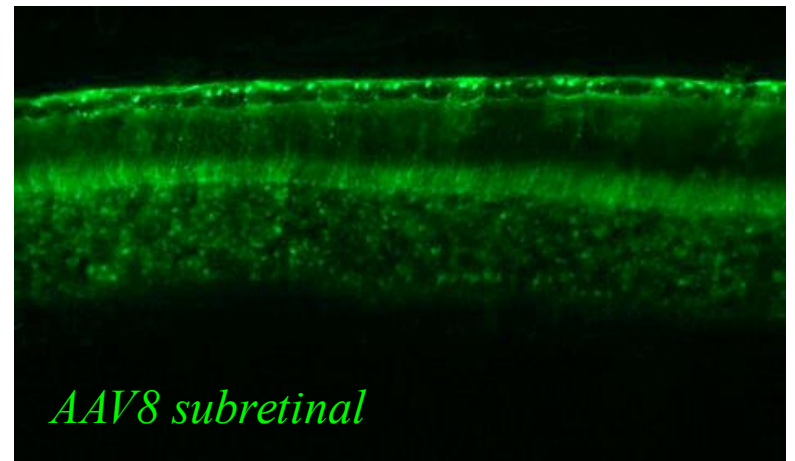
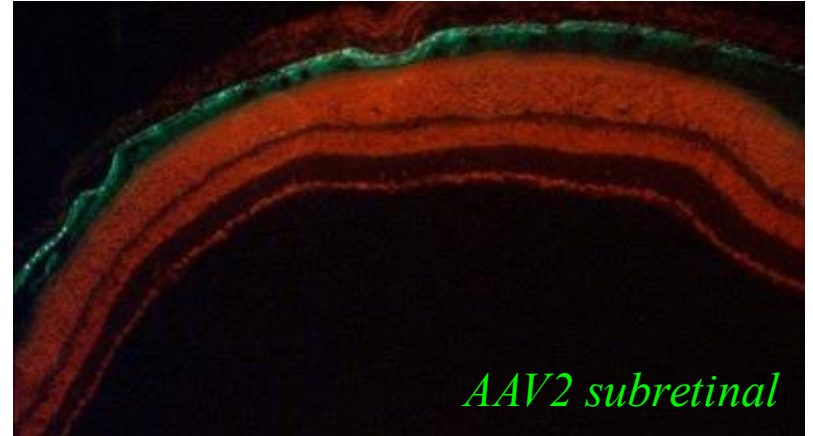
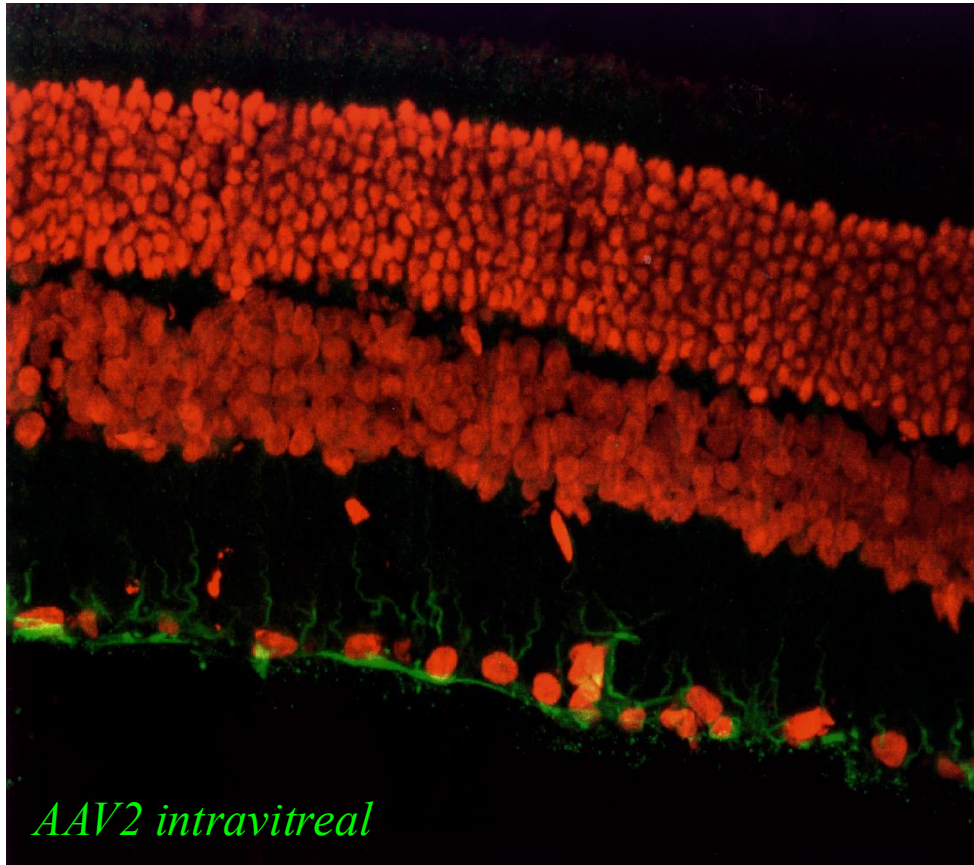
Into the anterior chamber - for corneal disease

Intravitreal - anti-apoptotic or neurotrophic genes to protect RGC death in glaucoma



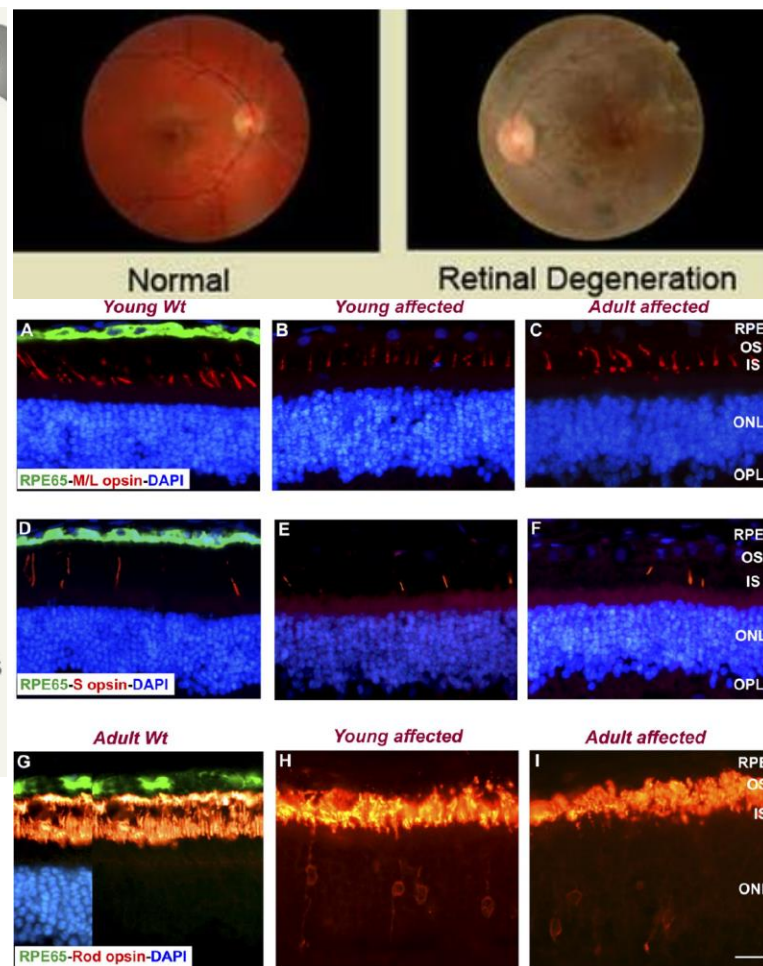
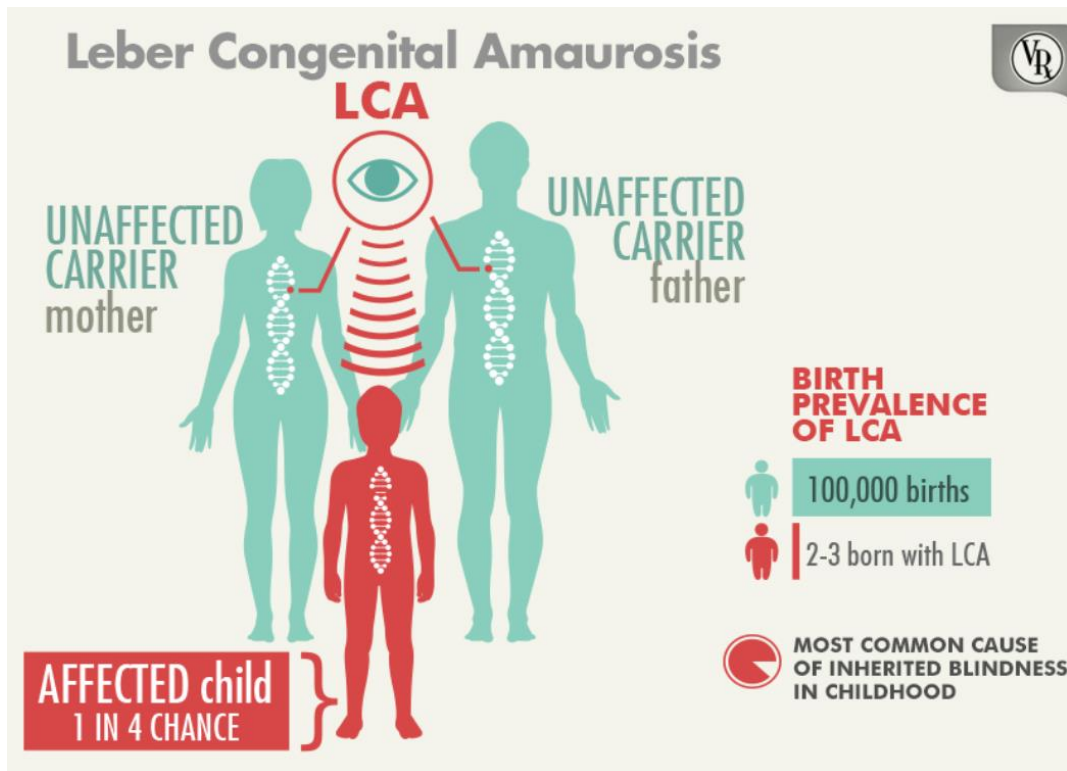
Sub-retinal (between photoreceptors and RPE) - for inherited retinal disorders, retinoblastoma and retinal neovascularization

AAV is the only vector to efficiently transduce both RPE and photoreceptors





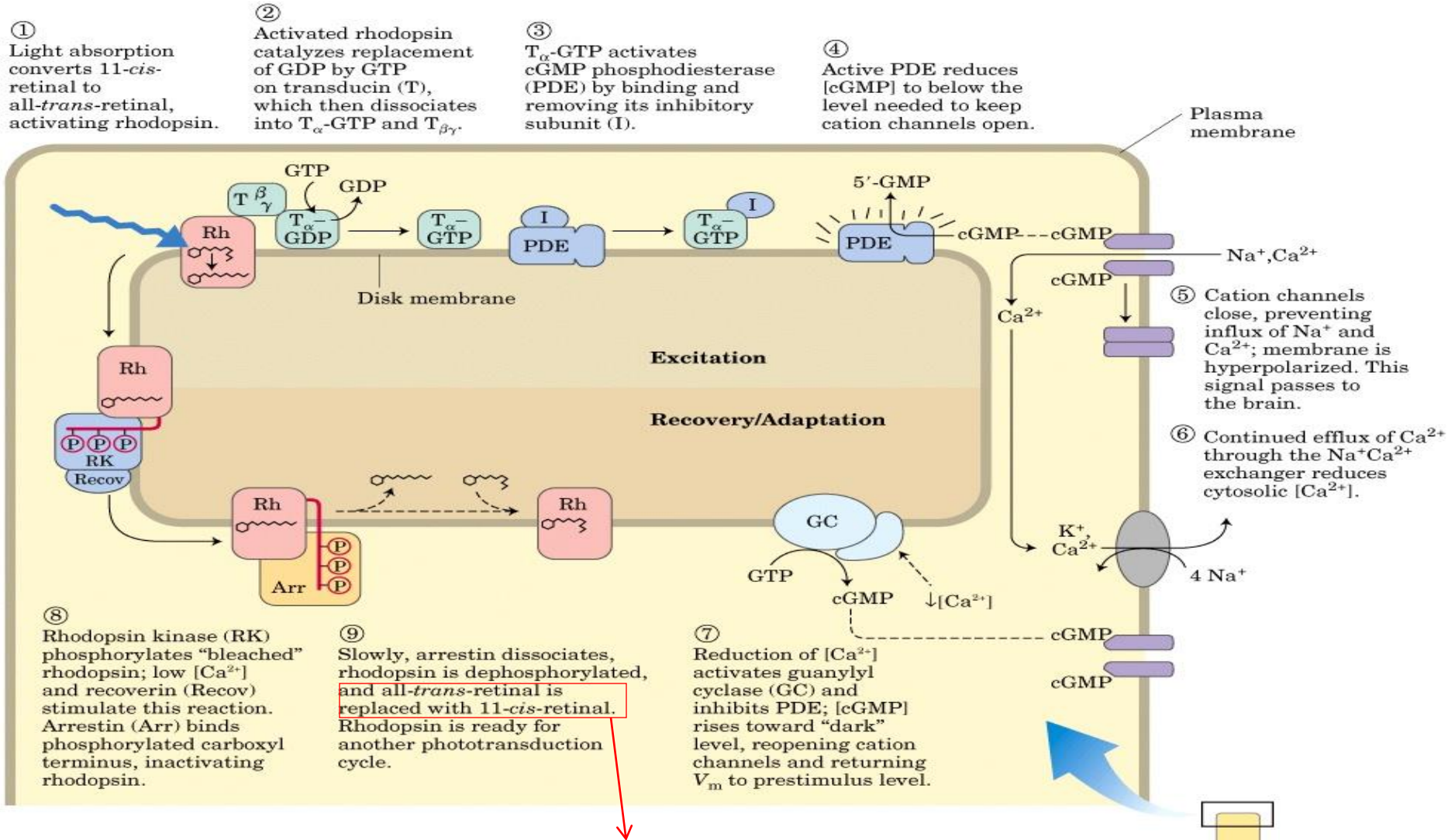
# Leber Congenital Amaurosis



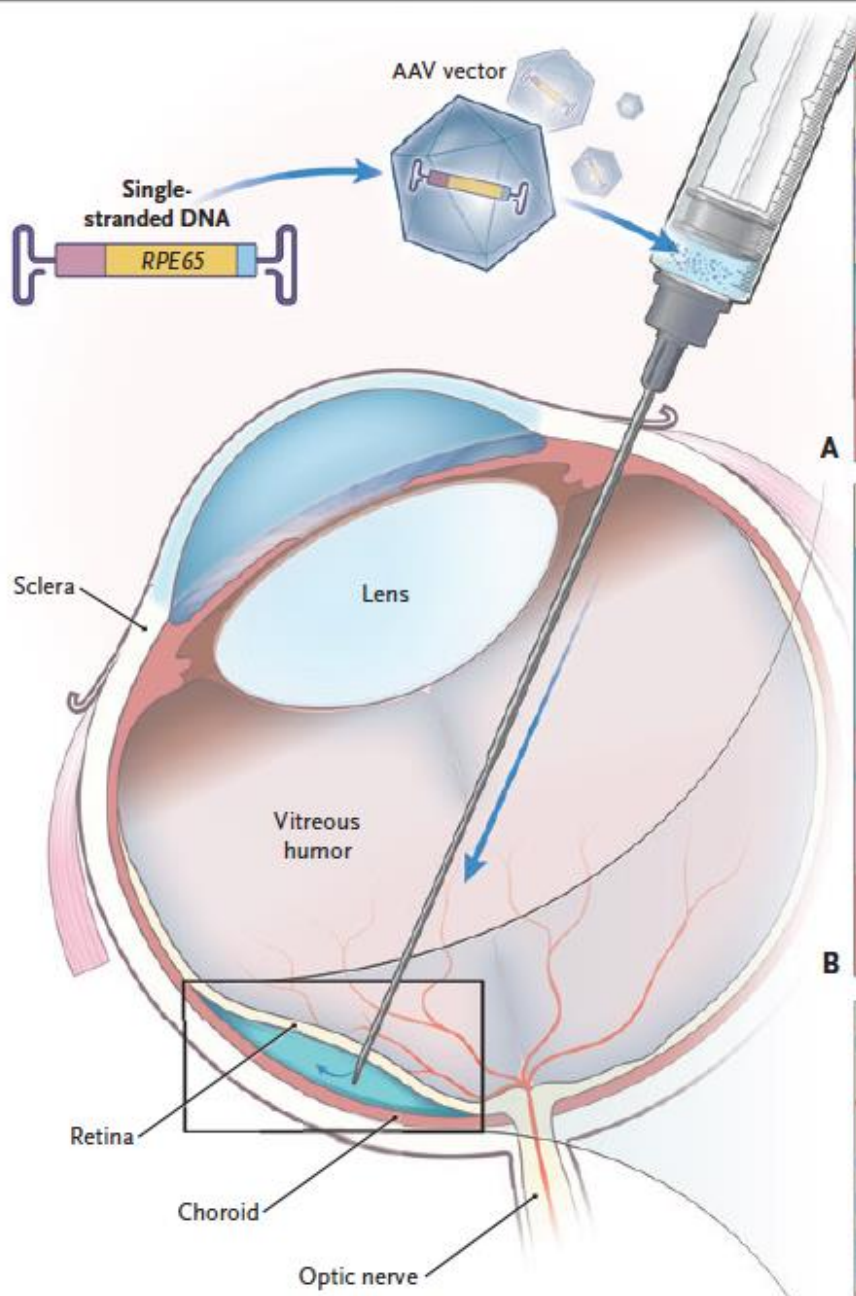
Vision loss in IR patients is due to the dysfunction/degeneration of retinal photoreceptor cells (PRs; rods and cones) and/or the retinal pigment epithelium (RPE)

Mutations in more than a dozen genes can cause LCA and *RPE65*-LCA is thought to represent about 6% of all LCA cases

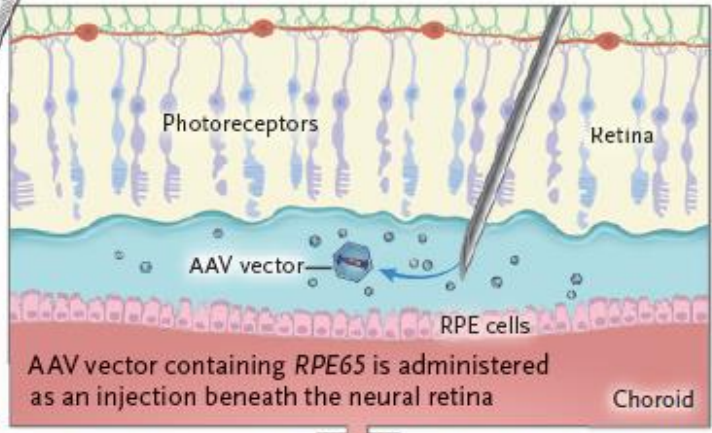
# Ciclo della fototrasduzione



RPE65: retinolo cis/trans isomerasi

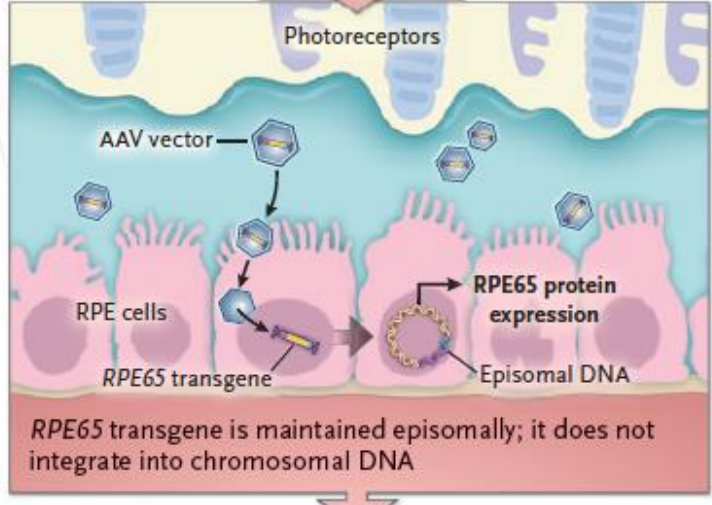


**A**



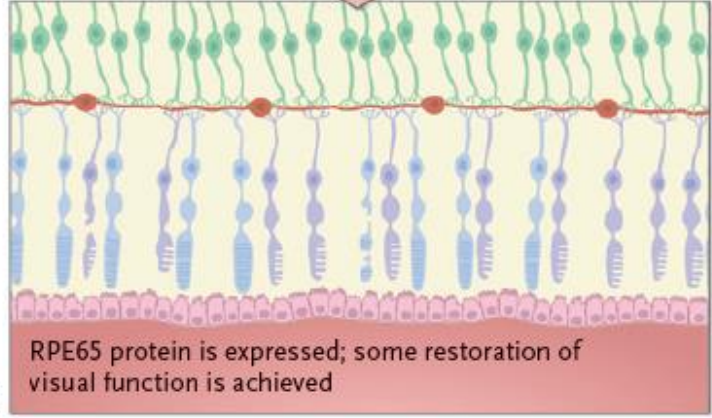
AAV vector containing RPE65 is administered as an injection beneath the neural retina

**B**



RPE65 transgene is maintained episomally; it does not integrate into chromosomal DNA

**C**



RPE65 protein is expressed; some restoration of visual function is achieved

# First AAV-Delivered Gene Therapy for Inherited Disease Approved by FDA



**Luxturna** is a recombinant adeno-associated virus of serotype 2 (rAAV2) expressing hRPE65. It is indicated for the treatment of patients with biallelic RPE65 mutation-associated retinal dystrophy.



**One caveat:** the injections cost \$850,000 USD for patient (both eyes), making it one of the most expensive treatments in the world

*In 41 patients in the clinical program, a single dose of Luxturna restored functional vision in these patients—and in a way that they were now able to conduct activities of daily living independently. The latest data, presented at the American Academy of Ophthalmology, suggests that one dose at three years and counting is still showing a sustained effect.*



- **30 patients treated in four independent trials**
- **The procedure was safe**
- **All trials showed significant improvements of both retinal and visual function**
- **Significant mobility improvement in navigation tasks**
- **The functional gain has been durable for as long as 3 years**

Target disease	Vector	Sponsor	Phase
Leber congenital amaurosis 2	AAV2-hRPE65v2	Spark Therapeutics	I/II (follow on)
	AAV5-OPTIRPE65	MeiraGTx UK II Ltd	I, II
	AAV2-hRPE65v2-301	Spark Therapeutics	III
	AAV2-hRPE65v2-101	Spark Therapeutics	I/II
	AAV5-OPTIRPE65	MeiraGTx UK II Ltd	I/II
	AAV2.hRPE65p.hRPE65	University College, London	I/II, completed
	AAV2-hRPE65	Applied Genetic Technologies Corp	I/II, completed
	AAV2-hRPE65	University of Pennsylvania	I
	AAV2-hRPE65	Hadassah Medical Organization	I
	AAV4-hRPE65	Nantes University Hospital	I/II, completed



LA VICENDA

## Sofia, la bambina di Napoli curata con il farmaco più costoso al mondo

Ha 6 mesi e una malattia rara: per la terapia spesi 1,9 milioni. Il papà: «Per noi era un tunnel senza fine, finalmente ora possiamo sperare di vedere la luce»

di Fulvio Bufi



7 dicembre 2020

# ZOLGENSMA



FARMACIA E BUSINESS

Novartis, il farmaco Zolgensma (atrofia spinale) diventa il più caro al mondo: costa 2,1 milioni di dollari

di Redazione Economia | 25 mag 2019



LOTTA ALL'EVASIONE

Lotteria degli scontrini, come funziona: dal codice per giocare alle estrazioni

LE AGEVOLAZIONI

Rottamazione, «saldo e stralcio»: nuove scadenze per 1,2 milioni di italiani

PAGAMENTI DIGITALI

Arriva il Cashback senza «Spid» e senza «App Io». Come fare per ottenerlo

L'INDAGINE

Smart working: così l'azienda può monitorare i dipendenti



## ZOLGENSMA targets the genetic root cause of SMA

As a gene therapy, ZOLGENSMA® (onasemnogene abeparvovec-xioi) is designed to target the genetic root cause of spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) by replacing the function of the missing or nonworking *SMN1* gene with a new, working copy of a human *SMN* gene. ZOLGENSMA does not change or become a part of the child's DNA.

To help you understand how this is possible, let's look at how ZOLGENSMA works.

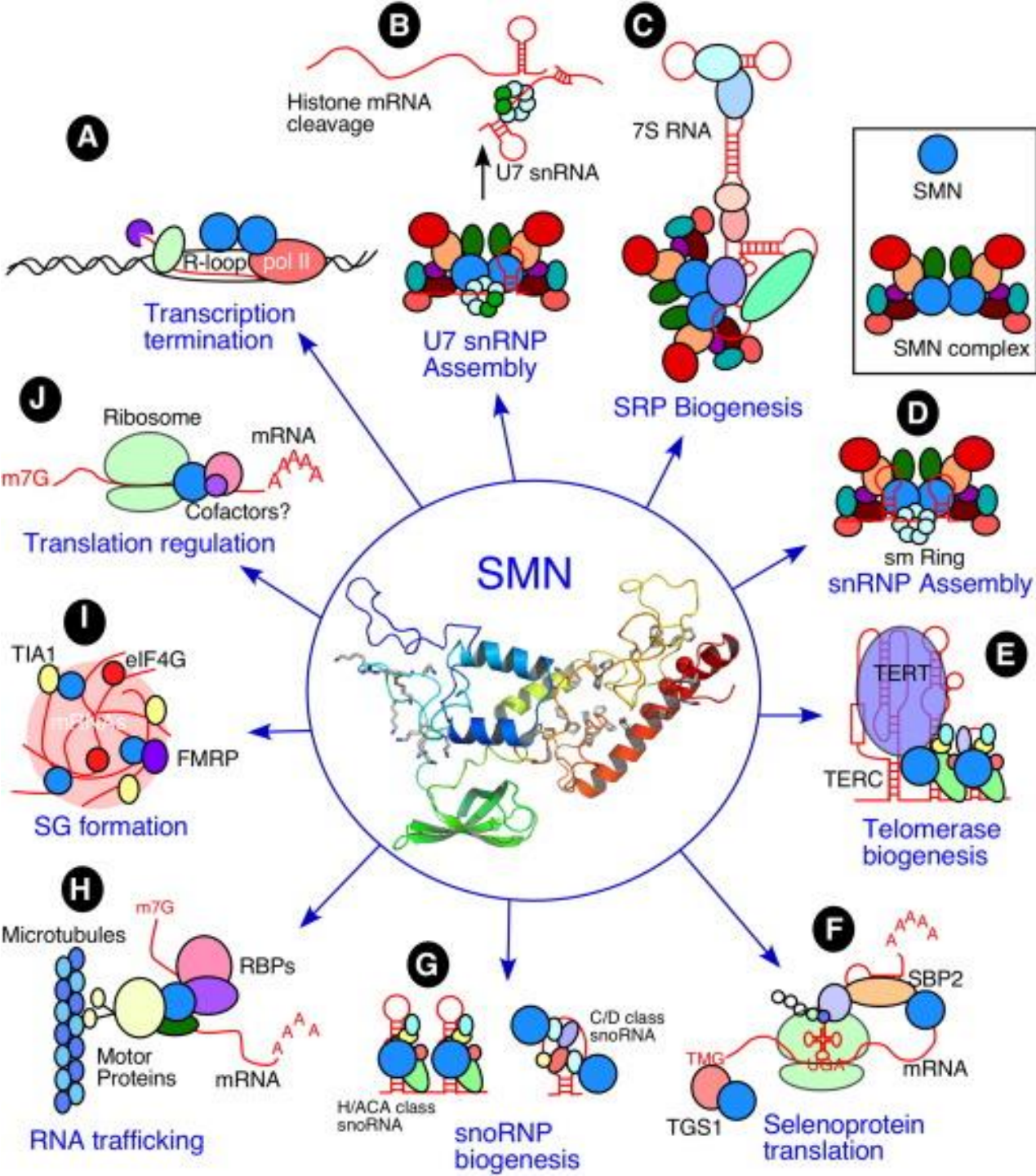


SCROLL  
▼

### What is ZOLGENSMA?

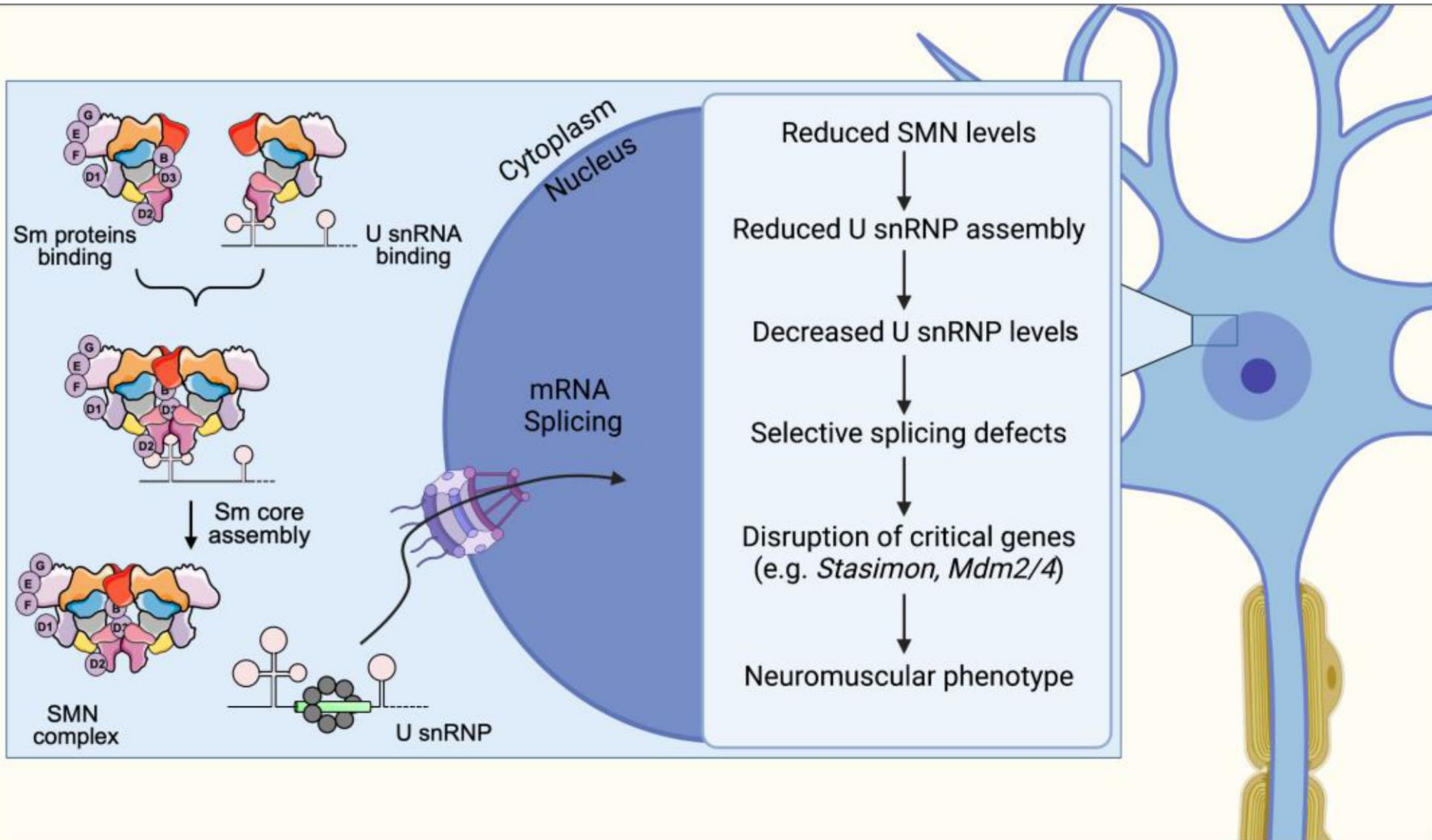
ZOLGENSMA is a prescription gene therapy used to treat children less than 2 years old with spinal muscular atrophy (SMA). ZOLGENSMA is given as a one-time infusion into a vein. ZOLGENSMA was not evaluated in patients with advanced SMA.

# SMN protein

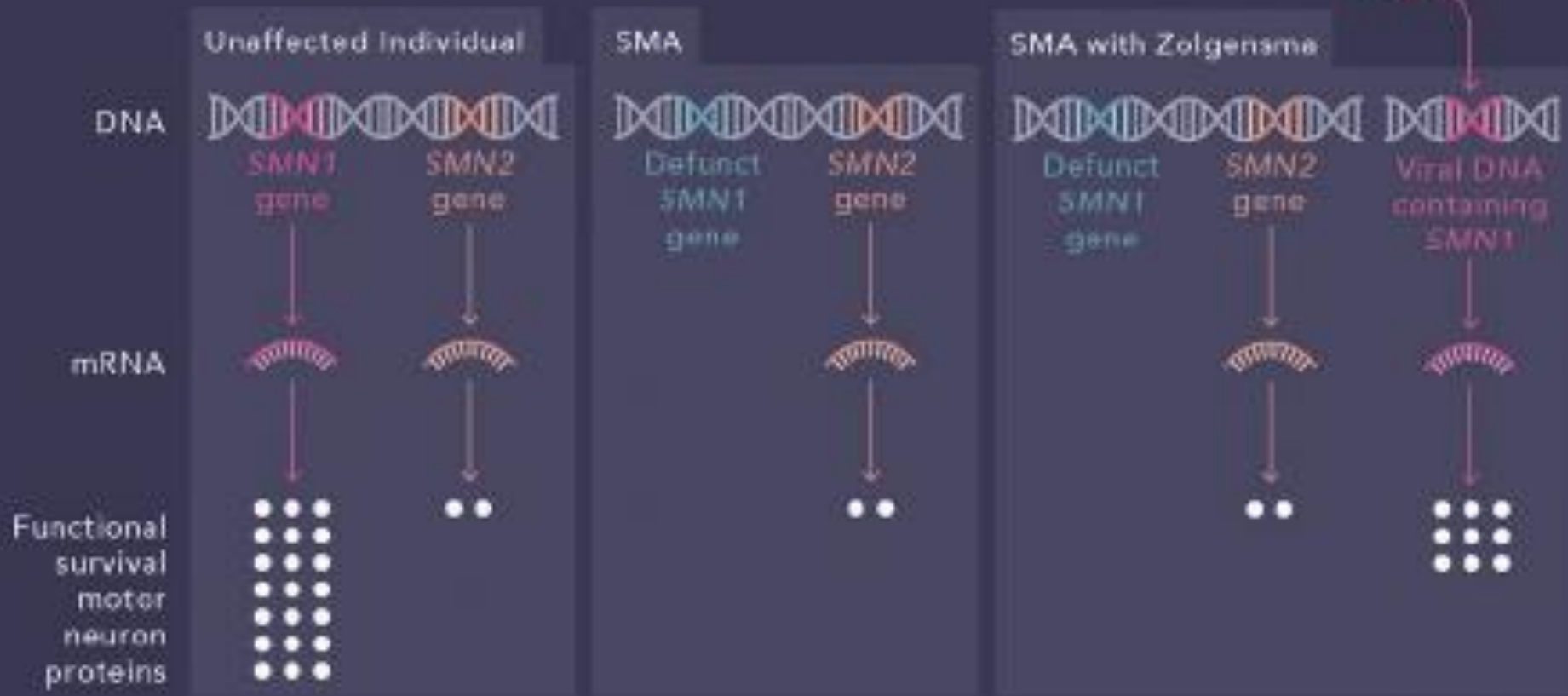




# SMA aetiopathogenesis



# GENE THERAPY FOR SPINAL MUSCULAR ATROPHY (SMA)





## SMN1 gene missing or nonworking

### A targeted approach

ZOLGENSMA targets the genetic root cause of SMA by replacing the function of the missing or nonworking gene, called the *SMN1* gene. This gene is critical to making SMN protein.

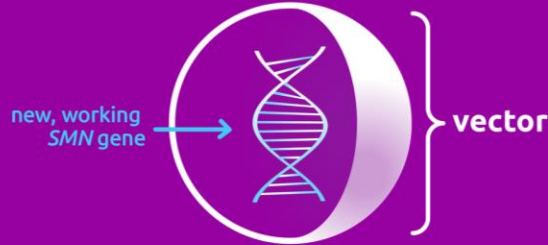


### controls muscles

### The importance of SMN protein

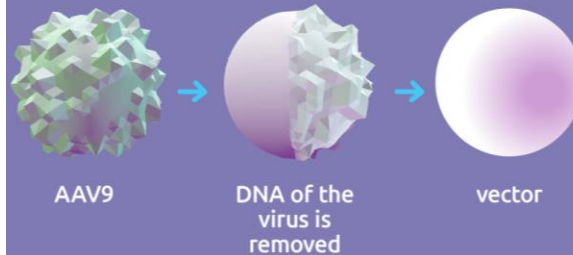
SMN protein is essential to motor neuron cell survival. These cells control muscle function. Without SMN protein, motor neuron cells die, causing muscles to become so weak that breathing, eating, and moving become difficult, and the condition is likely to become life threatening in its most severe forms.

functioning motor neuron cell



### The role of the vector

ZOLGENSMA is made up of a new, working copy of a human *SMN* gene that is placed inside a vector. A vector's job is to deliver the new, working *SMN* gene to the motor neuron cells in the body.



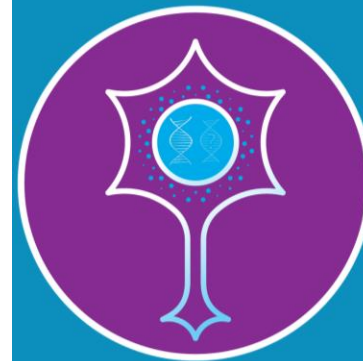
### Delivery of the *SMN* gene

The vector that delivers the *SMN* gene is made from a virus called adeno-associated virus 9, or AAV9. This type of virus does not make people sick. To make the vector, the DNA of the virus is removed so that the new *SMN* gene can be put inside. Vectors are used because they can travel throughout the body and deliver the new, working gene to the cells where it is needed.



### Production of SMN protein

When the new, working gene reaches its destination, it is ready to tell the motor neuron cells to start making SMN protein. This happens throughout the body, with many vectors delivering a new, working copy of the *SMN* gene to motor neuron cells. The new gene does not become part of the child's DNA.



### Motor neuron cells maintained

With the motor neuron cells now able to make sufficient SMN protein, motor neuron cells that have not died may survive, function, and be maintained.



## 2022, 7 ottobre: Atrofia muscolare spinale di tipo 1: prima terapia genica in FVG effettuata dell'equipe servizio Malattie rare del Burlo

Il bimbo trattato è arrivato da noi a quattro mesi di vita con malattia già in stadio avanzato e grave compromissione di deglutizione e respiro. Dopo il trattamento, il decorso della malattia è stato bloccato e il bimbo anche se avrà bisogno di una carrozzina elettronica e dovrà essere sottoposto a ventilazione notturna, non è più in pericolo di vita.

Come spiegano i membri dell'equipe del servizio malattie rare del Burlo, la terapia genica in questione è relativamente semplice, poiché si tratta dell'infusione per via endovenosa di un vettore virale adeno-associato (denominato AAV9) che trasporta il gene mancante SMN1 nel sistema nervoso centrale.

Si tratta, inoltre, di una terapia innovativa e ancora altamente costosa (oltre un milione di euro).

# ZOLGENSMA FOR SPINAL MUSCULAR ATROPHY



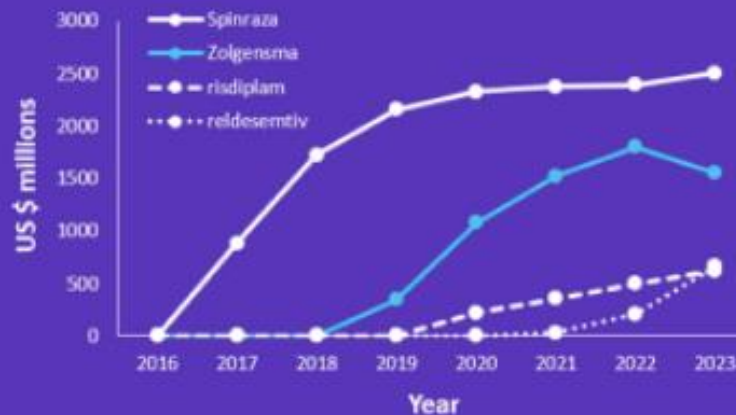
SMA is most often **LETHAL** in childhood

**90%** rate of death or permanent ventilation at two years of age in children with type 1 SMA



**ALL** of the children were **ALIVE** at two years in the pivotal trial of Zolgensma

**Price: \$425,000 annually for five years = \$2.125 million**



Spinraza: The first ever drug for SMA, but dosed every four months intrathecally

Risdiplam & reldesemtiv: two potential competitors currently in phase II/III trials

**Zolgensma:** the second SMA market entrant, but the first ever SMA gene therapy. Only requires a single intravenous dose

## Long-Term Safety and Efficacy of Factor IX Gene Therapy in Hemophilia B

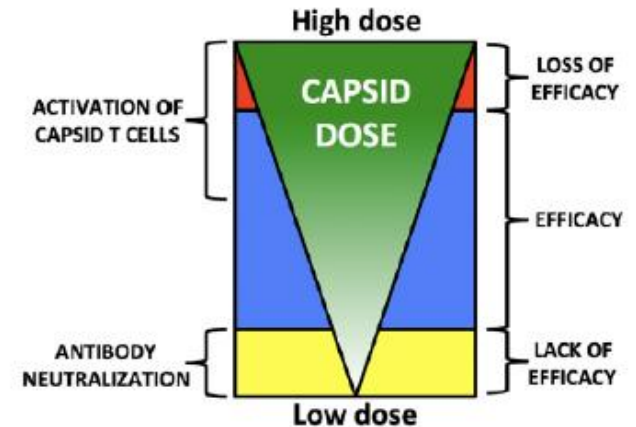
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*N Engl J Med* 2014; 371:1994-2004 November 20, 2014 DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa1407309



Dose-dependent increase in circulating factor IX to a level that was 1 to 6% of the normal value over a median period of 3.2 years, with observation ongoing

Reduction of more than 90% in both bleeding episodes and the use of prophylactic factor IX concentrate.

In 10 patients with severe hemophilia B, the infusion of a single dose of AAV8 vector resulted in long-term therapeutic factor IX expression associated with clinical improvement. With a follow-up period of up to 3 years, no late toxic effects from the therapy were reported.



# MOST EXPENSIVE DRUG IN THE WORLD

A man with a shocked expression, wide eyes, and an open mouth, looking towards the camera. In the foreground, there is a pile of various pills and capsules, and a fan of US dollar bills. The background is dark green.

**HEMGENIX**

It will cost **US\$3.5 million** for each dose, making it the most costly medication in the world. At first look, the price appears exorbitant, but a new examination of the drug's cost-effectiveness reveals that the life-span cost of continuous infusion of FIX for each individual with mild to chronic hemophilia B is between US\$21 and \$23 million



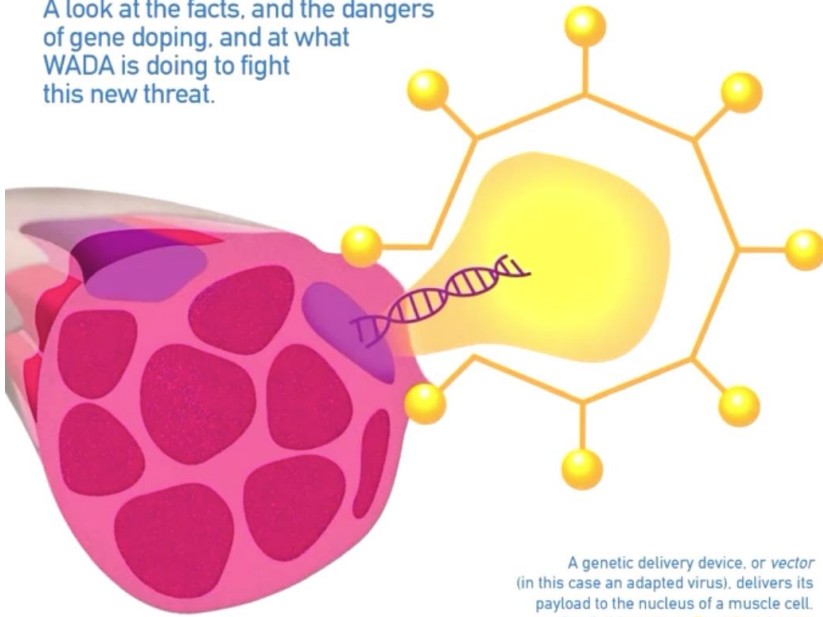
**WORLD  
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# play true

ISSUE 1 - 2005 AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WORLD ANTI-DOPING AGENCY

## Gene Doping

Science and sport converge once again as medical research charts the complexities of genetic treatment. A look at the facts, and the dangers of gene doping, and at what WADA is doing to fight this new threat.



A genetic delivery device, or vector (in this case an adapted virus), delivers its payload to the nucleus of a muscle cell. See full feature on [Page 2](#) and more

Il doping dei geni cambierà la natura dello sport

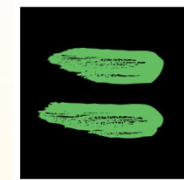
# Atleti geneticamente modificati

- Quando il metano dominava il clima
- Codice Voynich: truffa o mistero?
- Rane, parassiti e nuove malattie

Numero 432 - agosto 2004 - € 3,90



# Gene doping



WORLD  
ANTI-DOPING  
AGENCY

Repoxygen is a new way to artificially enhance an athlete's performance — one that is hard to detect and with potentially permanent effects

## How it works

Repoxygen was developed as a gene therapy treatment for severe anemia. A patient is injected with a harmless virus carrying a modified gene that encodes erythropoietin, a protein that boosts red blood cell production. The host's cells can translate that gene into active proteins as if the foreign gene were the cells' own.

### 1 Delivery

DNA packaged in a virus is injected into the athlete and flows through the bloodstream into muscle.

**Danger:** Altered viruses can trigger dangerous reactions from the immune system.

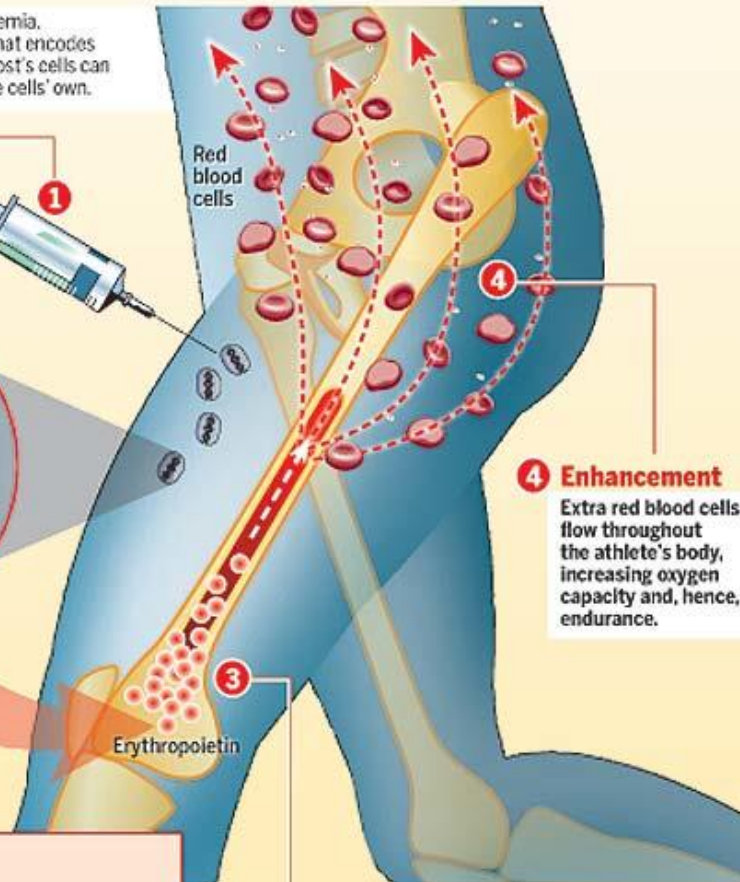
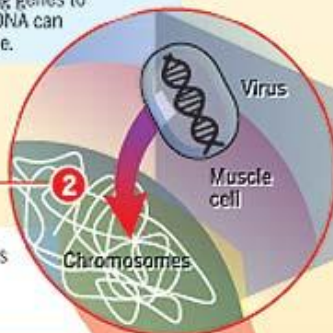
**Alternatives:** Viruses are not the only way to deliver performance-enhancing genes to cells. Fat molecules or naked DNA can be injected directly into muscle.

### 2 Change

Viruses bind to muscle cells and deposit the foreign gene inside, where it integrates into the cell's chromosomes. The gene stimulates the production of the protein erythropoietin (EPO).

**Danger:** Inserting foreign DNA can damage the cell's own genes, risking cancer.

**Detection:** Presence of a foreign gene in the athlete's DNA.



### 4 Enhancement

Extra red blood cells flow throughout the athlete's body, increasing oxygen capacity and, hence, endurance.

### 3 Dispersal

Erythropoietin (EPO), produced by the altered muscle cells, flows through the bloodstream to bone marrow, stimulating production of red blood cells, the body's main transporter of oxygen.

**Detection:** Changes in the concentration of multiple proteins in the blood or urine.

Geni:

-EPO

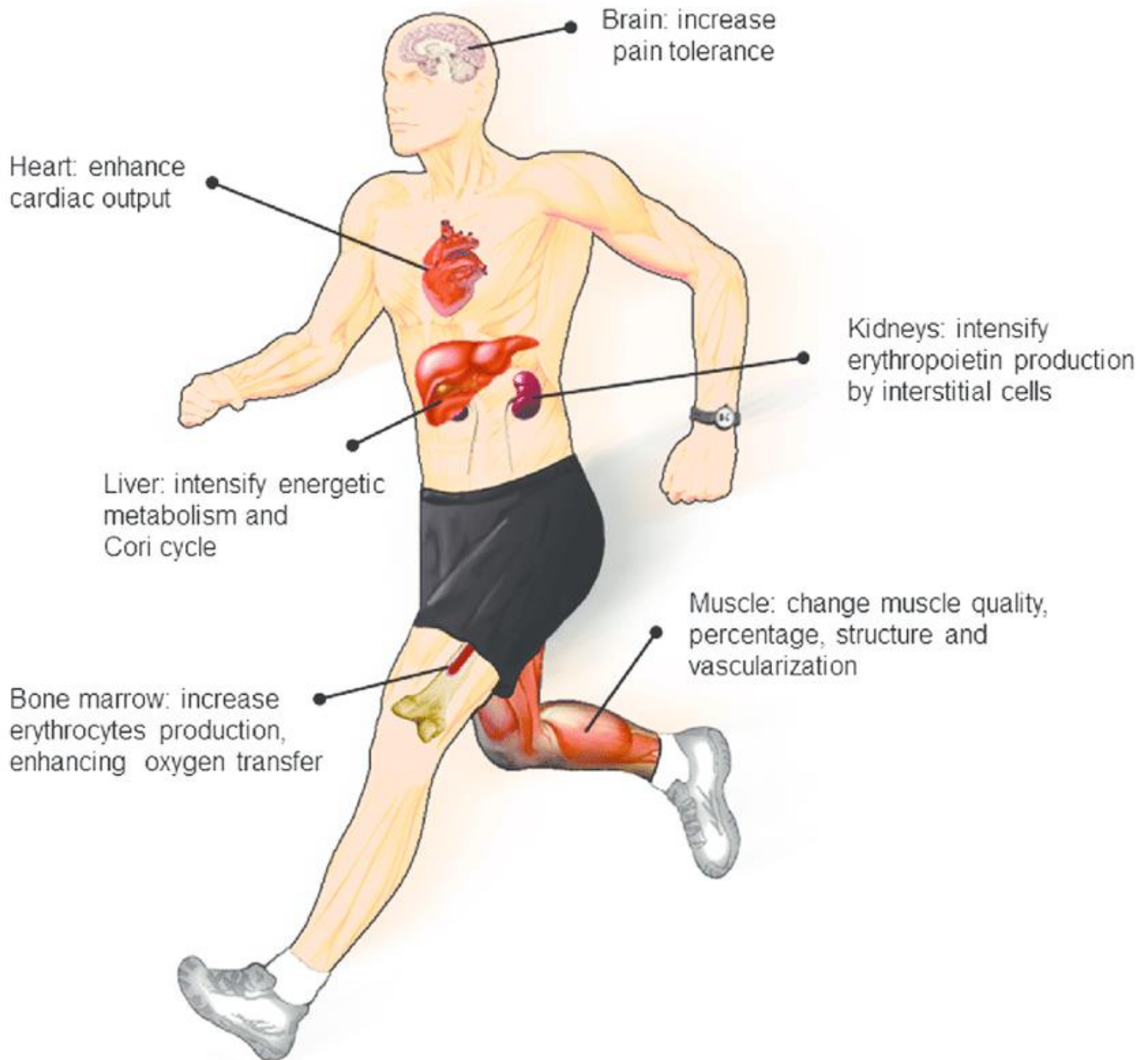
-IGF1

-Inibitori della  
Miostatina

## Other gene doping possibilities

■ In 1988, H. Lee Sweeney and colleagues at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine injected mice with a virus carrying a gene that boosted production of insulin-growth factor 1 (IGF-1). The injected mice had 15% more muscle mass than untreated mice.

■ In 2004, Ronald Evans and colleagues at California's Salk Institute for Biological Studies engineered mice to have extra copies of the gene encoding a protein called peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor delta (PPAR-delta). These mice could run twice as far as unaltered mice.



# Da 53 a 25 anni biologici: Liz Parrish, la prima donna a ringiovanire grazie alla terapia genetica

Liz Parrish, CEO di BioViva, sostiene di aver ridotto la sua età biologica di quasi 30 anni attraverso una terapia genetica sperimentale, suscitando dibattiti nel mondo scientifico.

Publicato il 7 Ottobre 2024 - 0:54 · Angelo Petrone

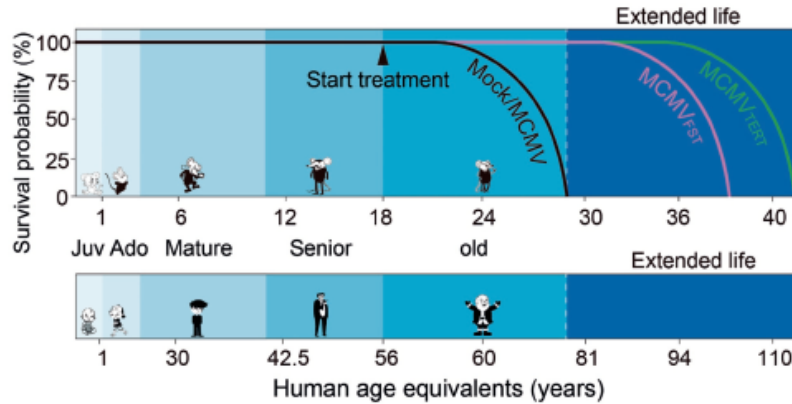


Il trattamento principale a cui si è sottoposta mira a estendere i suoi **telomeri**, oltre a includere un inibitore della **miostatina** per contrastare la perdita di massa muscolare.

Parrish non crede che il semplice allungamento dei telomeri possa essere la soluzione definitiva all'invecchiamento, osservando che alcune specie longeve hanno telomeri che si accorciano rapidamente e altre che li conservano più a lungo. La biologia umana è complessa e l'invecchiamento non può essere risolto da un'unica scoperta. Tuttavia, Parrish è convinta che il **prolungamento dei telomeri** giochi un ruolo importante in questa battaglia. Dopo il trattamento, ha incontrato leader politici e sanitari in tutto il mondo, raccogliendo interesse e curiosità, ma anche scetticismo sul suo approccio ancora non del tutto provato.

## BioViva's CMV vector: a platform for better gene-therapy delivery

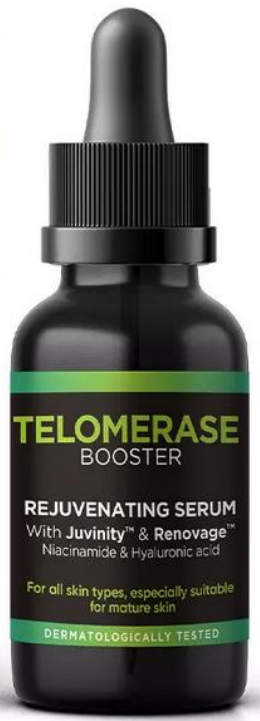
BioViva Science is a gene-therapy company focused on treating aging-related complex diseases with a new gene-therapy platform.



**Fig. 1 |** The survival curve of mice in each group was determined by a Kaplan-Meier survival curve.  $\chi^2$  test,  $p < 0.001$  TERT-IP vs. WT-IP and TERT-IN vs. WT-IN group at the 50% survival probability;  $p < 0.001$  FST-IP vs. WT-IP and FST-IN vs. WT-IN group at the 50% survival probability.  $n = 8$  per group. C57BL/6J mice and human age equivalence at the start of experimental treatment. MCMV, mouse cytomegalovirus; FST, follistatin; TERT, telomerase reverse transcriptase.



BioViva is building a gene-therapy platform using a cytomegalovirus (CMV) that be injected or delivered intranasally. Its established safety profile and lower immunogenicity make it redosable in animal models (Fig. 1). CMV does not integrate, which could reduce off-target effects. BioViva's early-stage CMV projects are looking at metabolic disease, frailty, cardiovascular disease, chronic kidney disease (CKD), and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). "We are applying for two pre-investigational new drugs (INDs): one for our intranasal gene therapy for Alzheimer's disease and another to look at age-related metabolic dysfunction with secondary endpoints in age-related muscle loss. Once the gene therapies have reached proof of- concept studies in humans, Parrish sees many possibilities. "We would like to see our gene therapies reach the market, and we are flexible as to how this happens. We are open to licensing, partnerships, and joint ventures," said Parrish.



Maschere Ringiovanenti con Telomerasi

*Urdaraz*

TELOMERASE

- ✓ Migliora la texture della pelle.
- ✓ Pelle più soda e liscia.
- ✓ Rallenta l'invecchiamento della pelle.

Oil Free   Vegani   95% Di ingredienti naturali   Cruelty Free

