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**GANNEX**  
*A Member of the Asclepis Group*

# Corporate Presentation

Gannex Pharma Inc.

Dec 2023

## About Gannex



Gannex, a wholly-owned company of Ascleptis Pharma(Hong Kong listed public biotech, HK.1672), is dedicated to the R&D and commercialization of new drugs in the field of NASH and PBC. Gannex has two clinical stage NASH drug candidates with global rights against two different targets – THR $\beta$  and FXR and one clinical stage PBC drug candidate

# NASH/PBC Clinical Pipeline

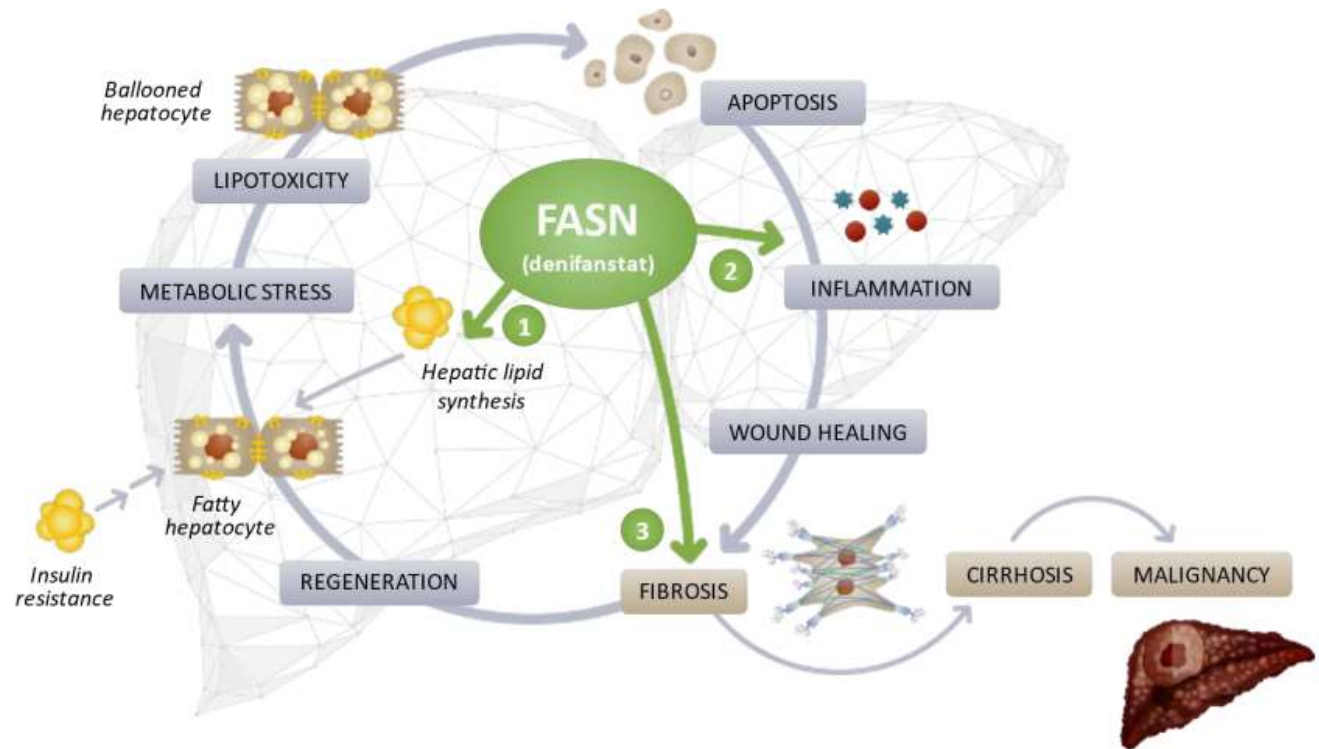
Target	Candidate	Commercial rights	Pre-IND	IND	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III	■ Competitiveness and next catalysts
FASN	ASC40 (NASH)	Great China	U.S. FDA Fast Track					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ First-in-class FASN inhibitor for NASH treatment</li> <li>■ Phase IIb biopsy readouts expected in 1Q2024</li> </ul>
THRβ	ASC41 (NASH)	Global	52 weeks, Biopsy					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Potentially second-in-class THRβ agonist to market after resmetirom (Madrigan)</li> <li>■ Interim 12-week liver fat reduction (MRI-PDFF) and fibrosis biomarkers expected in 4Q2023</li> </ul>
THRβ + FXR	ASC43F FDC (NASH)	Global						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ First-in-class, dual targets to THRβ and FXR</li> <li>■ 52 week Phase IIa/IIb in biopsy confirmed NASH patients authorized by FDA</li> </ul>
FXR	ASC42 (PBC)	Global						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Low pruritus rate after 12-week treatment (10mg, QD)</li> <li>■ Phase II data expected by the end of 2023</li> </ul>

# ASC40 NASH

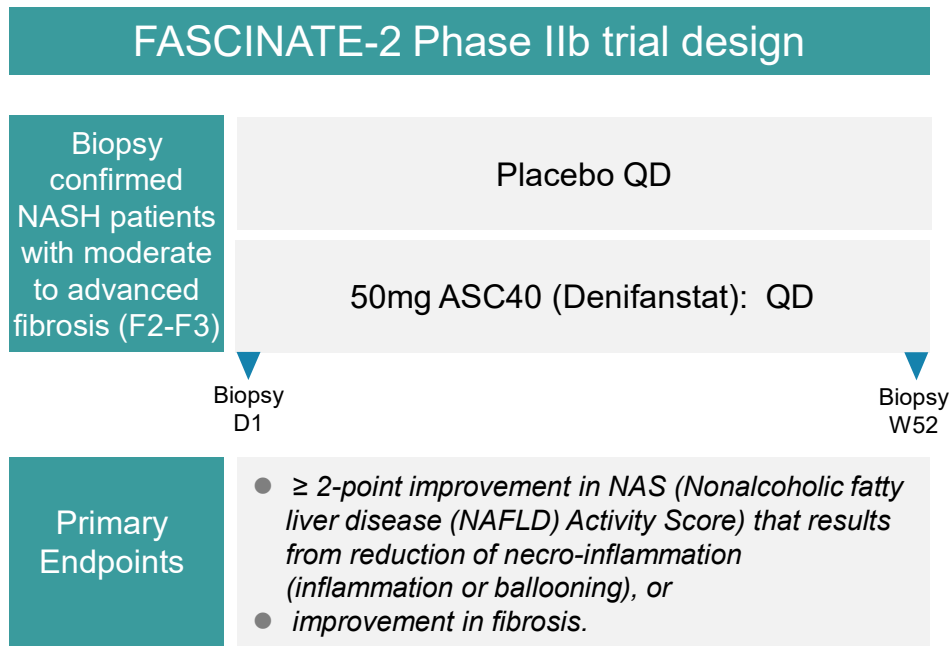
# ASC40 (Denifanstat) : Differentiated Mechanism Believed to Target Key Drivers of NASH

*Denifanstat has independent mechanisms designed to:*

- 1 Block **steatosis** via inhibiting de novo lipogenesis in hepatocytes
- 2 Reduce **inflammation** via preventing immune cell activation
- 3 Blunt **fibrosis** via inhibiting stellate cell activation



# ASC40 (Denifanstat) Phase IIb Clinical Trial Design



- Biopsy confirmed F2-F3 NASH patients • 52 weeks, 2:1 50mg or placebo, double-blind • Fully enrolled: 168 patients in U.S., Canada, and Europe
- Prespecified interim analysis of the first 52 patients with MRI-PDFF  $>8\%$

- Secondary Endpoints**
- Improvement in liver fibrosis  $\geq 1$  stage without worsening of NASH (Bx) • Digital AI pathology • Interim MRI-PDFF: absolute decrease, % change from baseline, % pts  $\geq 30\%$  (responders)

\*A baseline signature of metabolites involving the gut-liver axis predicts MRI-PDFF response to FASN inhibitor TVB-2640: results from the FASCINATE-1 study, The European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL) 2022, June 25, 2022. Virtual Conference.



## Interim Data from Phase IIb Clinical Trial: 67% of Patients Reduced Liver Fat by More Than 30%

ASC40 50 mg (n=30)	ASC40 50 mg (n=30)	Placebo (n=22)	P-value vs placebo
Relative reduction in liver fat	- 34.1%	- 1.5%	$p < 0.001$
≥30% reduction of liver fat (responder rate)	67%	18%	$p < 0.01$
ALT (U/L)	- 16.5	- 4.0	$p < 0.05$
Dual liver fat & ALT responder >30% + >17U/L decrease	37.0%	9.0%	$p < 0.05$
PRO-C3	- 8.2%	- 1.5%	$p < 0.05$
Enhanced liver fibrosis (ELF) score*	- 0.34	- 0.02	$p < 0.05$
LDL cholesterol (mg/dL)	- 12.4	0.0	$p < 0.05$
FGF21	+ 73.1%	+ 0.9%	$p < 0.01$

\*approximately half of denifanstat responders decreased liver fat by ≥50%

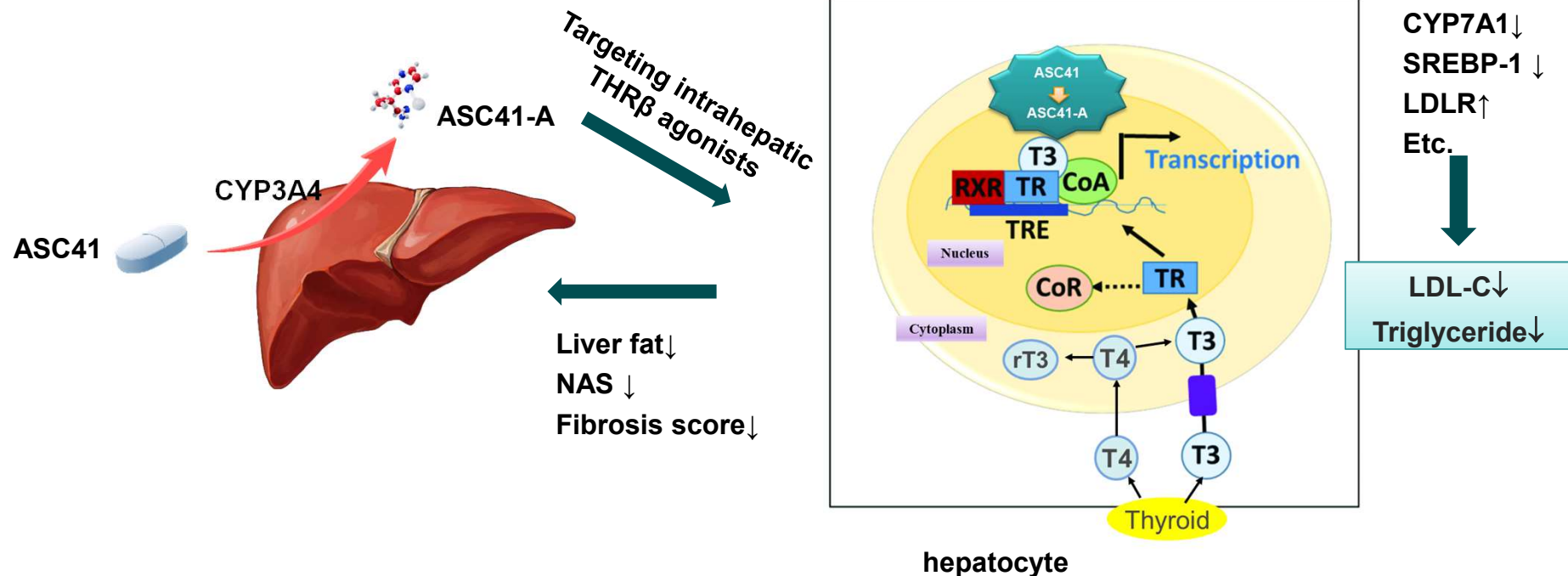
■ Phase IIb biopsy readouts expected in 1Q2024



# ASC41 NASH

# ASC41: A Liver Targeting Thyroid Hormone Receptor Beta (THR $\beta$ ) Agonist

- ASC41 is a liver targeted small molecule which is converted to its active metabolite ASC41-A - a potent and selective THR $\beta$  agonist

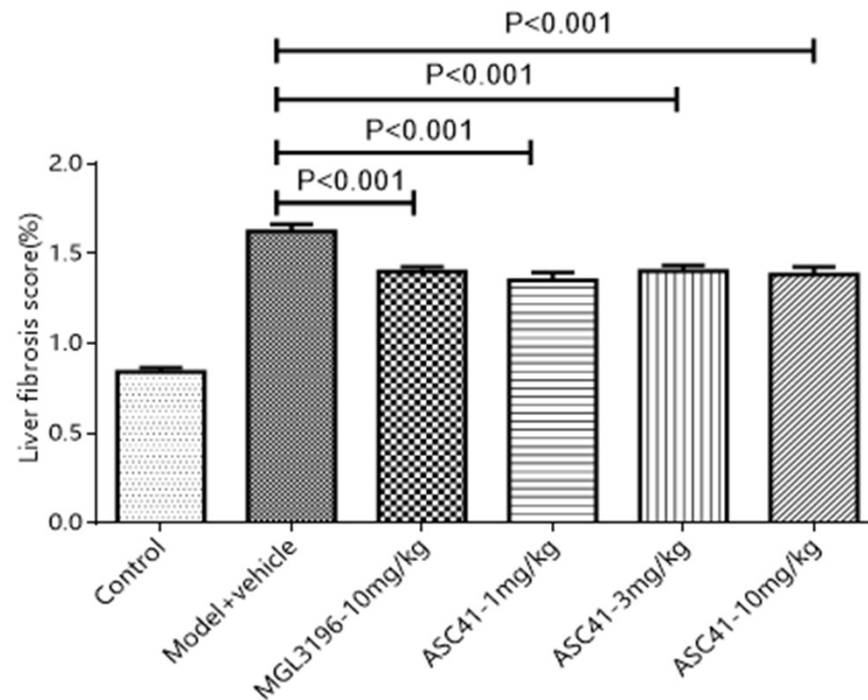




## ASC41: A Potential Second-in-Class THR $\beta$ Agonist

- ASC41 is a liver-targeted prodrug, and its active metabolite is a selective THR $\beta$  agonist.
- In two NASH animal models, at 1/10 dose of MGL-3196, ASC41 demonstrated the same improvement of liver steatosis, inflammation and fibrosis.
- Commercially ready oral tablet formulation developed with in-house proprietary technology
- 2 Phase I completed
  - Single doses (1, 2, 5, 10, 20 mg) and 14 day multiple doses (1, 2, 5 mg) in 65 subjects with elevated LDL-C > 110 mg/dL
  - Food effect in 12 healthy subjects
- 2 US bridging studies completed: no significant difference in drug exposure among Chinese and Americans
- 1 Phase Ib study completed
  - 28 day, 10 mg in 20 overweight and obese subjects with elevated LDL-C > 110 mg/dL
- Based on above studies, 2 mg and 4 mg once-daily doses have been selected for a 52-week Phase II trial in biopsy-confirmed NASH patients
  - First patient dosed in Oct, 2022

## ASC41 in HFD+CHOL Mouse Model Decreased Liver Fibrosis



- MGL-3196 is a THR-beta agonist from Madrigal
- HFD + CHOL: 60% high fat + 1.25% cholesterol + 0.5% cholate.

### Conclusions

- ◆ ASC41's 1 mg/kg group lowered liver fibrosis score by 25%.

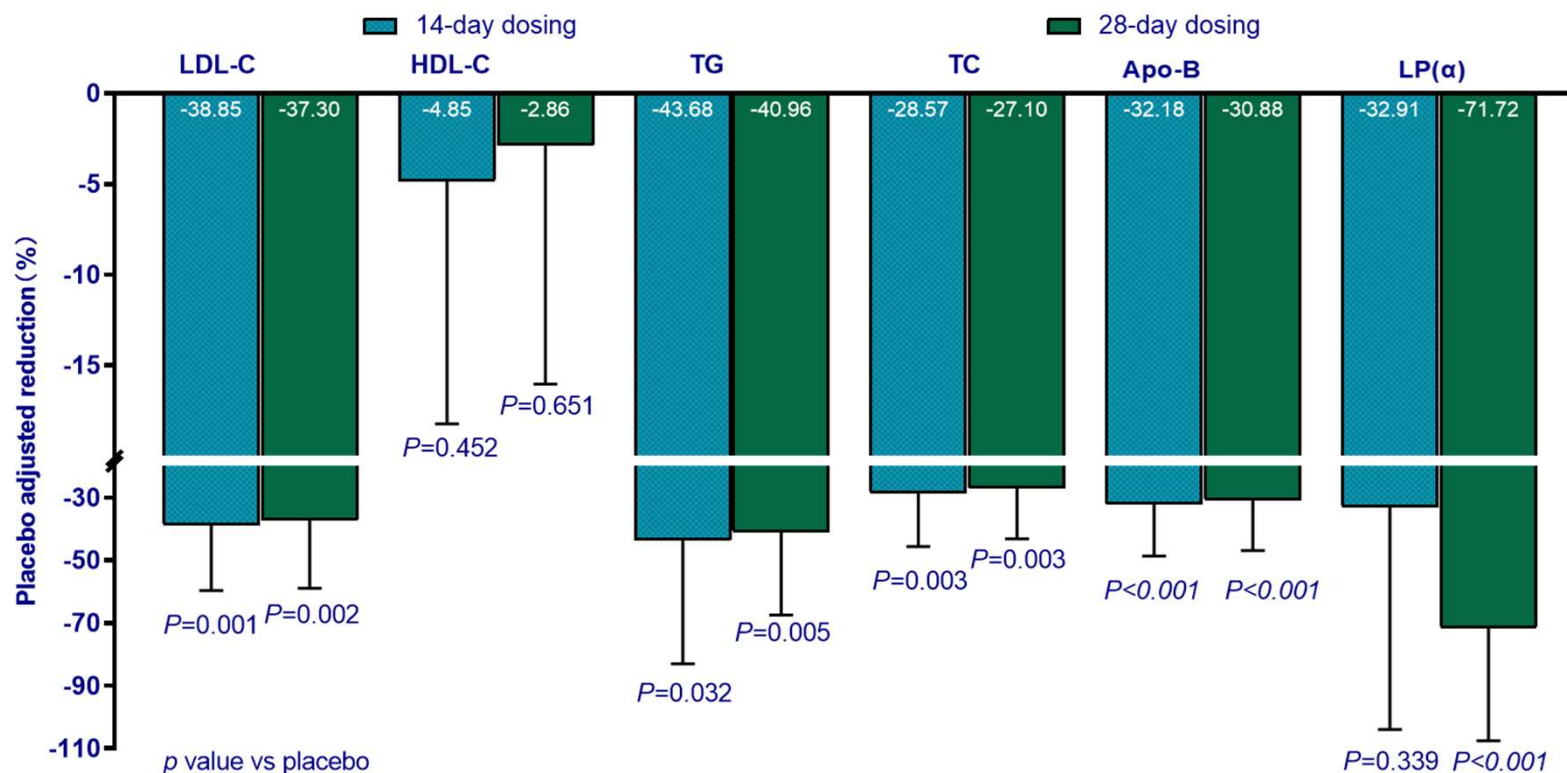
## Phase 1 Results of ASC41, Significant Lipid Lowering

Placebo-adjusted relative change (mean) from baseline after 14 days of once daily oral dosing of ASC41 tablets

	1 mg (n=12)	2 mg (n=12)	5 mg (n=12)
Placebo-adjusted LDL-C reduction P-value vs placebo	-0.42% p=0.947	-11.94% p=0.052	-19.99% p=0.002
Placebo-adjusted triglyceride reduction P-value vs placebo	-39.43% p=0.002	-31.06% p=0.029	-34.49% p=0.015
Placebo-adjusted TC reduction P-value vs placebo	-1.48% p=0.766	-8.53% p=0.142	-10.71% p=0.030
Placebo-adjusted HDL-C reduction P-value vs placebo	8.11% p=0.135	-2.54% p=0.668	-0.22% p=0.962

# Positive Phase Ib Results in Overweight and Obese Subjects

Placebo-adjusted relative change (mean) from baseline after 14 or 28 days of once daily oral dosing of 10 mg ASC41 tablets in overweight and obese subjects

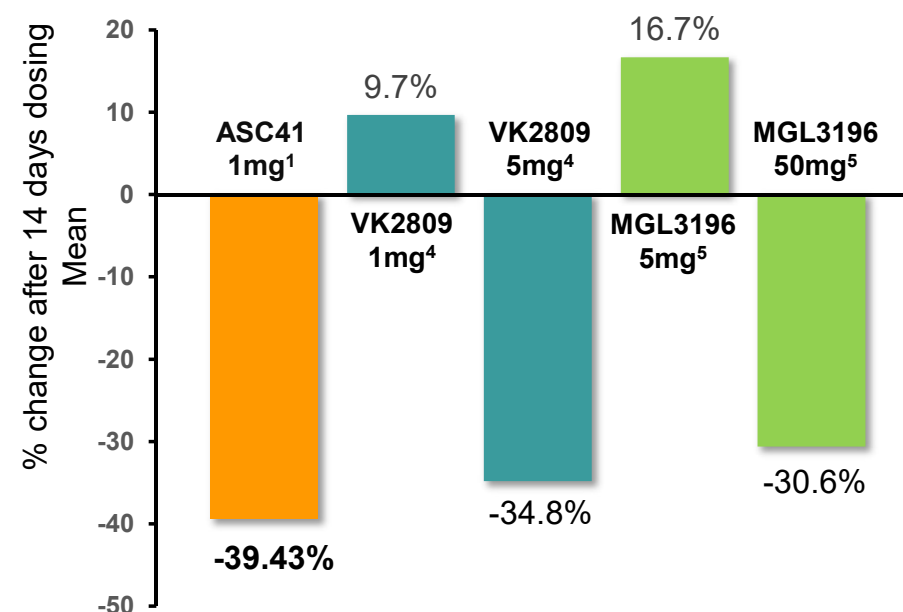


Source: A Phase Ib Study to Evaluate the Safety, Tolerability and Pharmacokinetics of ASC41, a THR-β Agonist, for 28-days in Overweight and Obese Subjects with Elevated LDL-C, a Population with Characteristics Of NAFLD. 72th American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) & The Liver Meeting ©, November 12-15, 2021. Virtual Conference.

# THR $\beta$ Differentiations: Gannex VS Viking and Madrigal

	Gannex ASC41 <sup>1</sup>	Viking VK2809 <sup>2,3</sup>	Madrigal MGL3196 <sup>4</sup>
Oral formulation	Tablet, room temp storage, commercially ready	Capsule, refrigerated	Tablet, room temp storage, commercially ready
Dosing frequency	Once a day	Once every two days	Once a day
DDI	-	+	-
Human dose needed for > 30% TG reduction <sup>5,6</sup>	1 mg	2.5 mg	50 mg

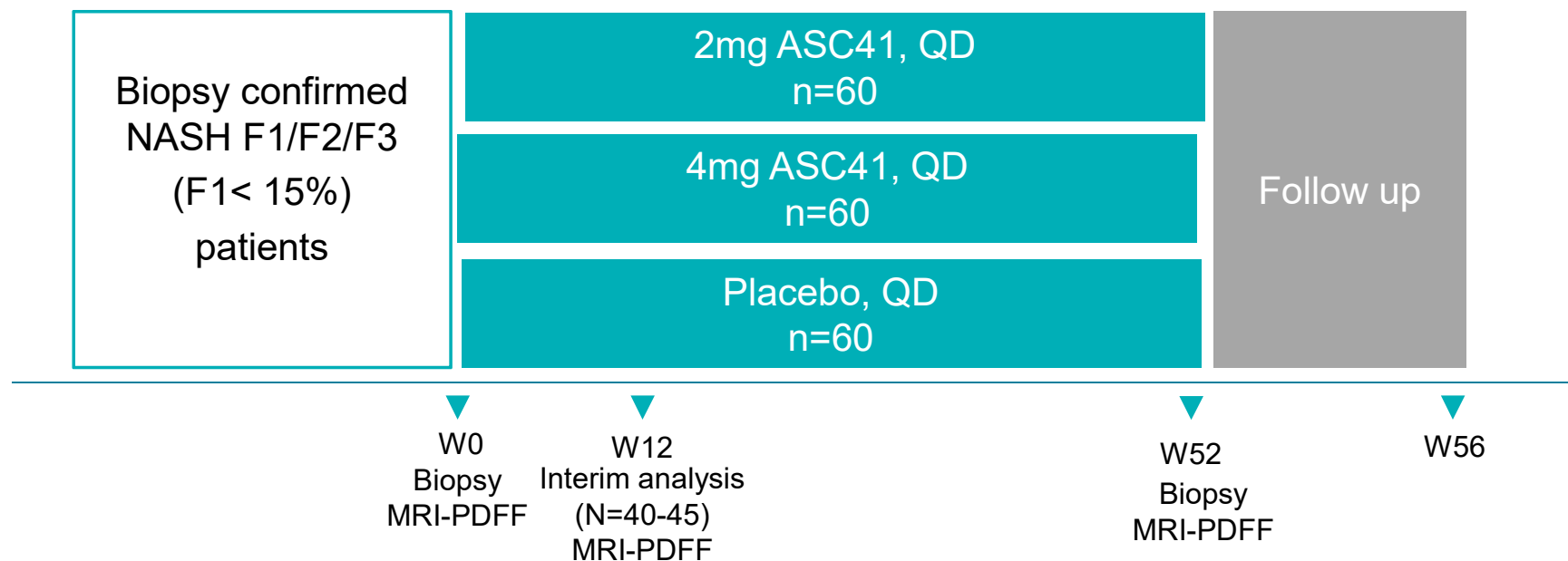
**Placebo adjusted triglyceride reduction from baseline after 14 day dosing (Not head-to-head)**



Source: 1.EASL 2021 Abstract No. PO-1851 2.EASL2020 Abstract No. AS073. 3. VK2809-202: Informed Consent Form, Iowa Diabetes and Endocrinology Research Center. 4.Stephen A Harrison et al. Resmetirom (MGL-3196) for the treatment of non-alcoholic steatohepatitis: a multicentre, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase 2 trial. [www.thelancet.com](http://www.thelancet.com) Published online November 11, 2019 [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(19\)32517-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(19)32517-6) 5.VK2809 data presented at the 2016 Meeting of the American College of Cardiology 6.Taub et al. Lipid lowering in healthy volunteers treated with multiple doses of MGL-3196, a liver-targeted thyroid hormone receptor-b agonist. *Atherosclerosis* 230 (2013) 373e380



## ASC41: Phase II Ongoing Study for NASH in China



### Primary Objective

To evaluate the effect of ASC41 compared with placebo in noncirrhotic patients with NASH and F1, F2, and F3 fibrosis at Week 52 by a histological reduction in NAS  $\geq 2$  points that results from reduction of necroinflammation (inflammation or ballooning) without worsening fibrosis.

### Secondary objectives

1. NASH resolution; 2. Fibrosis improvement.

*First biopsy-confirmed patient dosed in Oct, 2022. Interim analysis (MRI-PDFF etc) expected in 4Q2023*

# ASC41 NASH Timeline Till 2023

## ASC41 in US

**Sep 2021**

2 US bridging studies completed:  
(1) In healthy subjects  
(2) In NAFLD patients

**Feb 2021**

US IND approved

**Dec 2021**

US Phase IIa/IIb study approved by FDA

## ASC41 in China

**Aug 2020**

China IND approved

**Jan 2021**

China Phase I completed in subjects with LDLC > 110 mg/dL

**Feb 2021**

China Phase Ib in overweight and obese subjects completed

**Jun 2022**

China Phase IIa/IIb study approved by NMPA

**Oct 2022**

China Phase IIa/IIb first patient dosed

**4Q 2023**

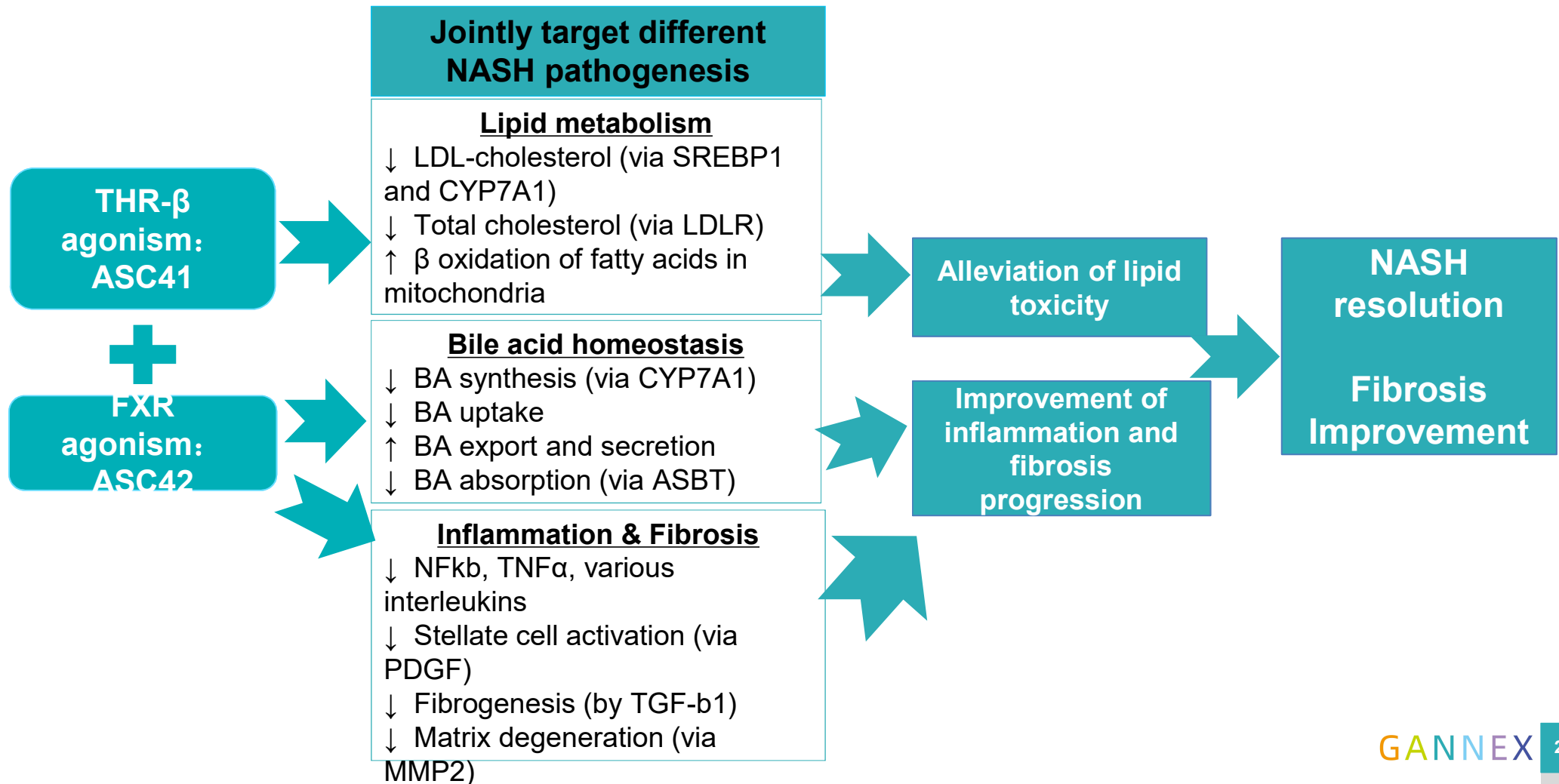
China Phase IIa/IIb 12-week liver fat reduction and fibrosis biomarker data


# ASC41 vs VK2809 vs Resmetirom (MGL3196) in US: Strong patent protection

Category		Ascletis: ASC41	VIKING: VK2809		Madrigal: MGL-3196	
<b>Crystal Patent</b>	YES	Publication No. :WO2022067602A1 Filing Date: 2020-09-30	YES	Publication No. :US20210024554A1 Filing Date : 2019-03-18	YES	1.Patent No:US9266861B2 Filing Date:2013-09-17 2.Publication No. :US20210122740A1 Filing Date:2019-07-02
<b>Formulation Patent</b>	YES	1.Publication No. : US20210308155A1 Filing Date :2021-3-25 2.Patent No.: US11583502B2 Filing Date: 2021-4-16	NO	No published patent has been searched	NO	No published patent has been searched
<b>Synthesis Patent</b>	YES	Patent No. : US11292805B2 Filing Date: 2021-4-15	NO	No published patent has been searched	YES	Patent No. : US9266861B2 Filing Date: 2013-09-17
<b>Compound Patent</b>	NO Irrelevant	-	YES Irrelevant	Patent No. : US7829552B2 Expiration Date: 2026-10-20	YES irrelevant	Patent No. : US7452882B2 Expiration Date: 2026-09-12
<b>Method-Use Patent</b>	NO	-	YES	1.Patent No. : US10130643B2 Filing Date: 2006-05-26 2.Patent No. : US10925885B2 Filing Date: 2006-05-26 3.Patent No. : US11202789B2 Filing Date: 2017-11-17 4.Publication No. : US20200179412A1 Filing Date: 2018-06-04 5.Publication No. US20220016137A1 Filing Date: 2019-12-04	YES	1.Patent No. : US9968612B2 Filing Date: 2013-09-17 2.Patent No. : US11090308B2 Filing Date: 2017-10-18 3.Patent No. : US20210330675A1 Filing Date: 2021-07-07

ASC43F (ASC41+ASC42)  
NASH

## Mechanism of ASC43F( ASC41+ASC42) against NASH

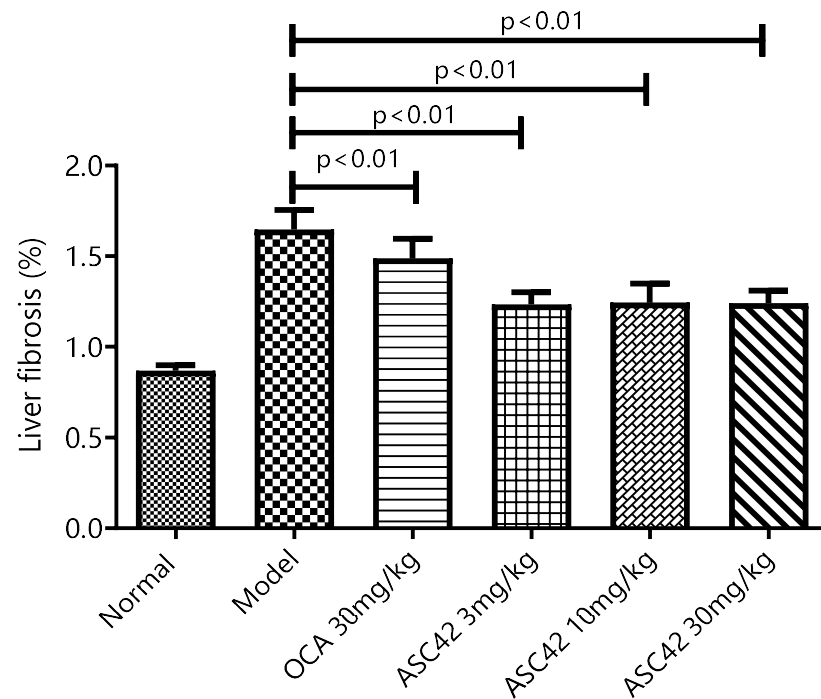




## ASC43F- First-in-Class Dual Targeting (THR $\beta$ +FXR) Fixed-dose Combination

- An in-house developed, first-in-class dual targeting fixed-dose combination (FDC) of ASC41 (a THR $\beta$  agonist) and ASC42 (an FXR agonist)
- THR $\beta$  agonism has demonstrated both NASH resolution and fibrosis improvement, while FXR agonism has shown primarily anti-fibrotic, as well as anti-inflammatory effects. The combination of ASC41 and ASC42 may complement the advantages of these two agents
- U.S. FDA IND approval in November 2021
- U.S. Phase I trial completed in January 2022
  - ASC43F was safe and well tolerated in healthy volunteers
  - PK parameters of ASC41 and ASC42 from ASC43F are similar to those of ASC41 and ASC42 monotherapy
- 52-week phase IIa/IIb in biopsy-confirmed NASH patients approved by US FDA

## ASC42 in DEN+HFD Rat Model



- DEN, diethylnitrosamine to promote liver fibrosis
- HFD, high fat diet that contains 60KCal% fat
- OCA, obeticholic acid

■ ASC42 at the dose range of 3~30 mg/kg significantly inhibited the progress of liver fibrosis (both  $p < 0.01$ ), among which ASC42's 30 mg/kg group lowered cirrhosis by 28.0%.



## ASC42 Phase I Study Results

Dose	5 mg QD	15 mg QD	50 mg QD
Incidence rate of pruritus during 14 days treatment (%)	0	0	57
AUC on Day 14 (ng.h/mL )	196	1752	10970
Safety margin for pruritus versus 50 mg (fold)	56	6.3	NA
LDL-C change from baseline on Day 14 (% , Median)	-6.6	2.43	-14.8
FGF19 on Day 14 versus baseline (%)	471	1780	3970
C4 reduction on Day 14 (%)	53	91	96
ALT change from baseline on Day 14 (U/L, Median)	-1.0	-2.5	3

Doses ranging between 5 and 15 mg were selected for the Phase II studies based on the study data from this Phase I study, including the fact that there were no pruritic events after 14 days of dosing associated with these doses.

Source: Jinzi J. Wu et al, AASLD 2021 abstract 1854;

## Improvement of PBC biomarkers FGF19 and C4 by ASC42 versus Ocaliva

Biomarker change relative to baseline	ASC42 (QD, 14 days) (ASC42-I-CTP-01) <sup>1</sup>		OCA (QD, 21 days) (NCT01625026) <sup>2,3</sup>
Dosage	5mg	15mg	25mg
FGF19: relative to baseline %	471%	1780%	147%
C4: inhibition %	53%	91%	91%
Side effect: Pruritus	0	0	70% (10mg)

**Conclusion:** ASC42 is potentially better or comparable in treatment of PBC could be to that of Ocaliva with less side effect of pruritus.

Source: 1. Jinzi J. Wu et al, AASLD 2021 abstract 1854; 2. Al-Dury, S., et al.[J] J Hepatol, (2019).DOI: 10.1016/j.jhep.2019.06.011;3. Kowdley, K. V., et al.[J] Hepatology, (2018).DOI: 10.1002/hep.29569

# ASC42 Demonstrated Minimal Pruritis in a 12 Week HBV Phase II Study

## ■ DESIGN

- ASC42 10mg or 15mg qd + PEG-IFN  $\alpha$ -2a 180 $\mu$ g QW+ETV 0.5mg qd
- 15 patients per treatment arm for 12 weeks

## ■ RESULTS

- In CHB patients, 12-week treatment of 10 mg ASC42 in combination of PEG-IFN- $\alpha$ -2a and ETV was safe and well-tolerated and showed minimum and mild pruritus (6.7%).

### Comparison of incidences of pruritus of ASC42 with other FXR agonists and PEG-IFN $\alpha$ -2a

	ASC42 10 mg (N = 15)	Obeticholic Acid 10 mg (N = 653)	PEG-IFN $\alpha$ -2a 180 $\mu$ g (N = 271)	Cilofexor 30 mg (N = 40)	Tropifexor 140 $\mu$ g (N = 50)
Patient type	CHB	NASH	CHB	NASH	NASH
Treatment duration	12 weeks	18 months	48 weeks	48 weeks	48 weeks
Pruritus, number of patients (%)	1(6.7)	183 (28)	26 (10)	8 (20)	20 (40)

## Phase I PK parameters of ASC43F versus monotherapy ASC42 and ASC41 in healthy volunteers

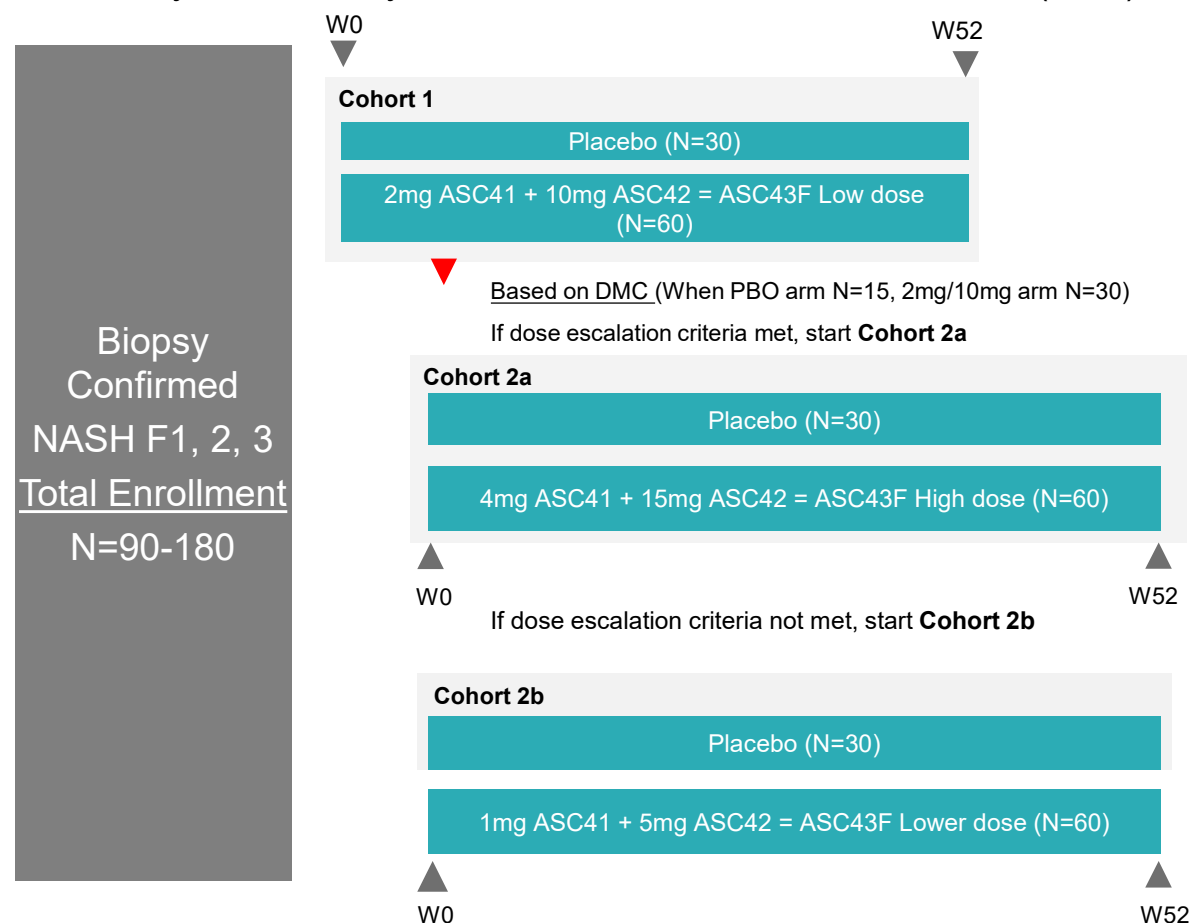
	ASC42 Tablet (5mg*3)	ASC41 Tablet (5mg*1)		ASC43F Tablet (ASC41 5mg + ASC42 15mg)		
	ASC42	ASC41	ASC41-A	ASC42	ASC41	ASC41-A
<b>C<sub>max</sub> (ng/mL)</b>	363 (29.5)	4.69 (35.2)	23.9 (32.9)	254 (84.2)	3.60 (53.7)	28.4 (20.3)
<b>T<sub>max</sub> (h)</b>	2.50	1.00	4.00	3.00	1.00	4.00
<b>t<sub>1/2</sub> (h)</b>	8.11 (22.9)	6.75 (33.2)	15.5 (26.8)	7.84 (36.9)	7.28 (74.3)	14.7 (14.2)
<b>AUC<sub>0-t</sub> (ng·h/mL)</b>	1631 (27.0)	16.7 (54.9)	442 (52.9)	1580 (72.4)	20.8 (65.4)	527 (26.7)
<b>AUC<sub>0-inf</sub> (ng·h/mL)</b>	1635 (26.9)	23.8 (37.5)	455 (53.2)	1584 (72.3)	23.8 (64.9)	546 (28.2)

### Conclusion:

- ◆ Phase I study demonstrated that ASC43F showed good tolerability and safety profiles
- ◆ PK parameters of ASC41/ASC41A and ASC42 from ASC43F were similar to those of ASC41 and ASC42 as monotherapy.
- ◆ One-pill, once-a-day FDC for NASH treatment, thus should improve patient compliance

# US FDA approved 52-week phase IIa/IIb in biopsy-confirmed NASH patients : ASC43F Trial Design

A Seamless, Phase IIa/IIb Double-blind, Randomized, Multicenter, Placebo-controlled, Study to Evaluate the Safety, Tolerability and Efficacy of ASC43F, a fixed dose combination (FDC) oral tablet, in Adults with NASH



## Primary Objective

To evaluate the effect of ASC43F compared with placebo in noncirrhotic patients with NASH and F1, F2, and F3 fibrosis at Week 52 by a histological reduction in NAS  $\geq 2$  points that results from reduction of necroinflammation (inflammation or ballooning) without worsening fibrosis.

## Secondary objectives

1. NASH resolution; 2. Fibrosis improvement.

## Published ASC42 Patents/Applications : Strong patent protection

Category	Filing Date	Publication No.	Patent Application	Countries Patent Authorized
Compound Patent and NASH/PBC use patent	2020-10-12	US20220388997A1	Globally	China
Use Patent : HBV	2020-10-12	US20230165843A1	Globally	China
Combo Patent (ACS41+ASC40)	2022-07-05	WO2023280150A1 (PCT)	Globally	-
Formulation Patent	2021-09-09	WO2023035181A1 (PCT)	Globally	-

ASC43F patent applications not published yet.



## Gannex Has a Strong THR $\beta$ Portfolio for NASH

### ■ ASC41: Oral, once daily drug candidate targeting THR $\beta$

- Positioned to be a second-in-class THR $\beta$  Agonist to market with best-in-class potential
- Interim 12-week liver fat reduction and fibrosis biomarkers data expected in 4Q2023
- US NDA filing expected 1H2029

### ■ ASC43F: Oral, once daily fixed dose combination drug candidate targeting THR $\beta$ and FXR

- Positioned to be a first-in-class fixed dose combination drug candidate to market
- 52-week phase IIa/IIb protocol in biopsy-confirmed NASH patients approved by US FDA
- US NDA filing expected 2H2030



# ASC42 FXR

## For Primary Biliary Cholangitis (PBC)



## ASC42: A Novel Non-steroidal, Selective, Potent FXR Agonist For PBC

- Potentially best-in-class, **Significantly less pruritus** at human therapeutic doses
- U.S. FDA IND approval
- U.S. FDA Fast Track Designation in NASH
- U.S. Phase I trials completed: Single ascending doses and multiple ascending doses, Food effect
- Phase II trial in HBV patients showed minimum and mild pruritus (6.7%).
- Phase II clinical trial for PBC topline results expected by the end of 2023

## ASC42 PBC Phase II Study Design +/- UDCA

If on UDCA, Continue on UDCA



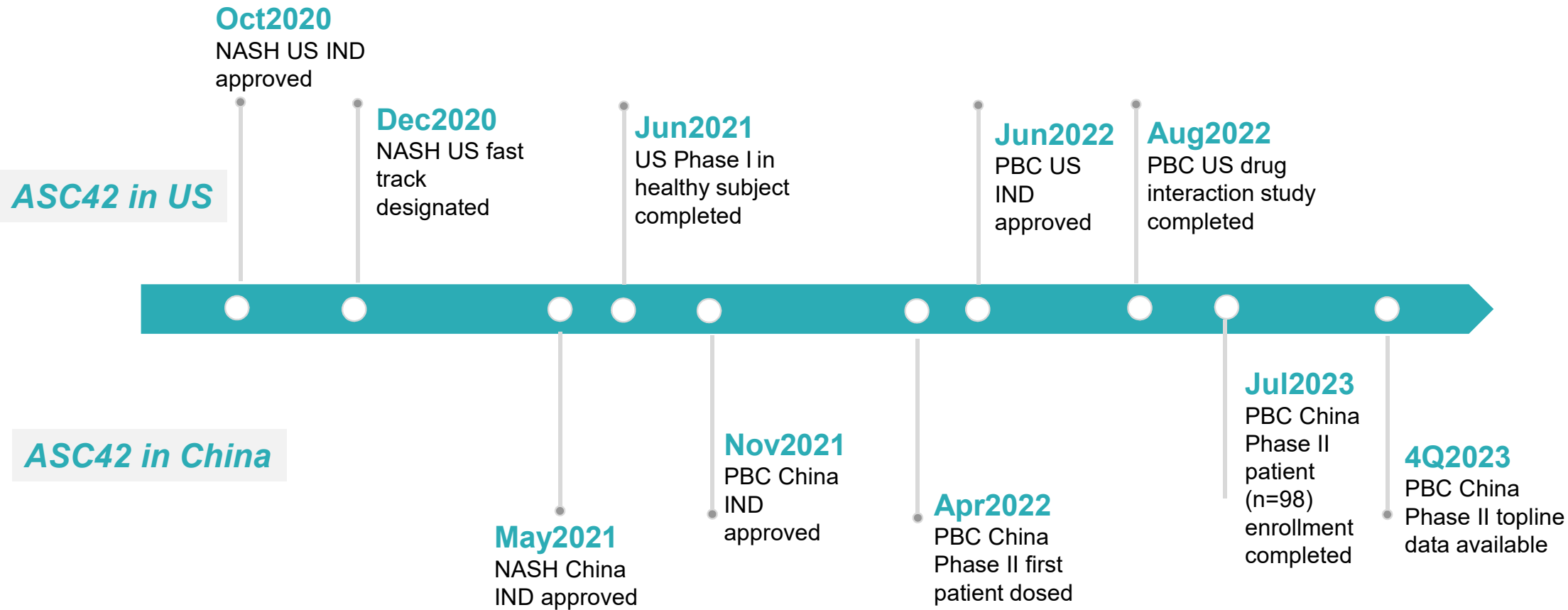
### **\*Patient population**

1. inadequate response to UDCA
2. unable to tolerate UDCA

### **Primary endpoints:**

% patients achieving: 1)  $ALP \leq 1.67 \times ULN$ , 2) a minimum ALP reduction of  $\geq 15\%$  from baseline and 3) total bilirubin  $\leq ULN$

# ASC42 NASH/PBC timeline



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THANKS

— GANNEX —