

# Transformative RNA Based Treatments for CF & Pulmonary Diseases

Corp. Update  
2021

NON-CONFIDENTIAL

# SpliSense – CF & Pulmonary Diseases Focused Company



## The Company

- › Founded in 2017 by Prof. Batsheva Kerem (Hebrew University)
  - › Part of the global team that cloned the CFTR gene
- › Leadership team and advisors with strong track record in pulmonary development of inhaled therapies and ASOs
- › Based in Jerusalem, Israel



## R&D Status

- › Inhaled Antisense Oligonucleotides (ASOs)
  - › Initial focus on high unmet need, orphan indications (CF)
  - › Subsequent expansion to larger, non orphan pulmonary indications (muco- obstructive diseases)
  - › ASOs - clinically validated approach
  - › Two clinical programs to be initiated in late 2022



## Financial

- › Backed by a strong syndicate including: OrbiMed, CF Foundation, IBF and Integra (VC arm of Hebrew University)



# Management & Leadership Team



## **Gili Hart PhD - CEO**

Biotech executive with extensive experience in global drug development from pre-clinical through successful Phase 3 trials. Former CEO of Mitoconix Bio and OPKO Biologics.



## **Nissim Darvish, M.D., Ph.D. - Chairman**

Managing General Partner at MeOhr Ventures  
Former Director at Orbimed Advisors LLC and Orbimed Israel Partners. Spent 8 years prior with Pitango Venture Capital



## **Batsheva Kerem PhD -Co-founder & CSO**

Prof. Hebrew University of Jerusalem. 30 years of leading research in CF genetics starting with the discovery of the CFTR gene..



## **Prof. Eitan Kerem MD -CMO**

Pediatric pulmonologist; Head of the Pediatric Pulmonology Unit of HMC Jerusalem, Chairman of the Israeli CF Foundation CAB.



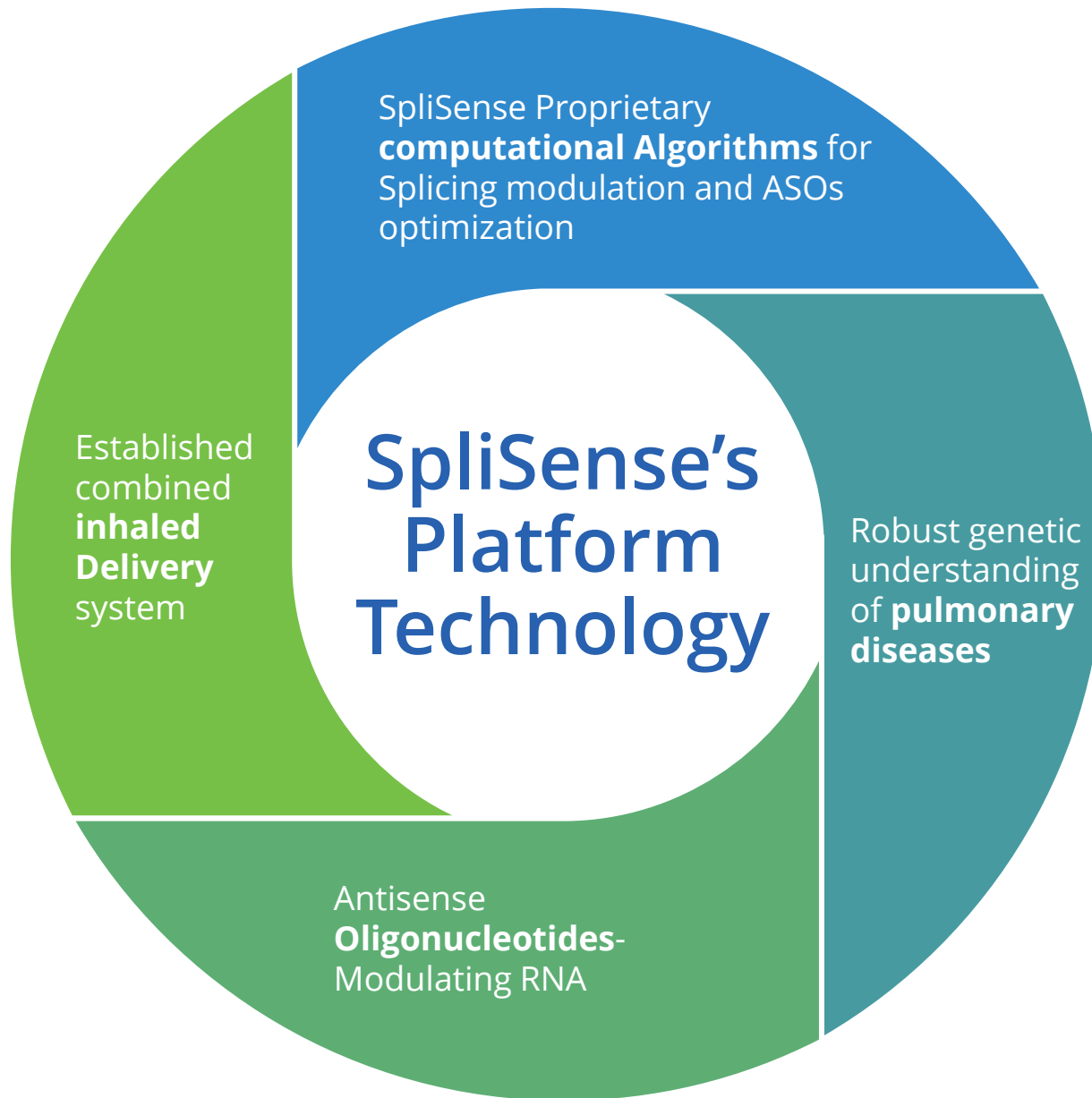
## **Oren Gez, MBA- CBO**

An experienced and appreciated financier with over 18 years of experience in the global capital market working at local and international investment banking.

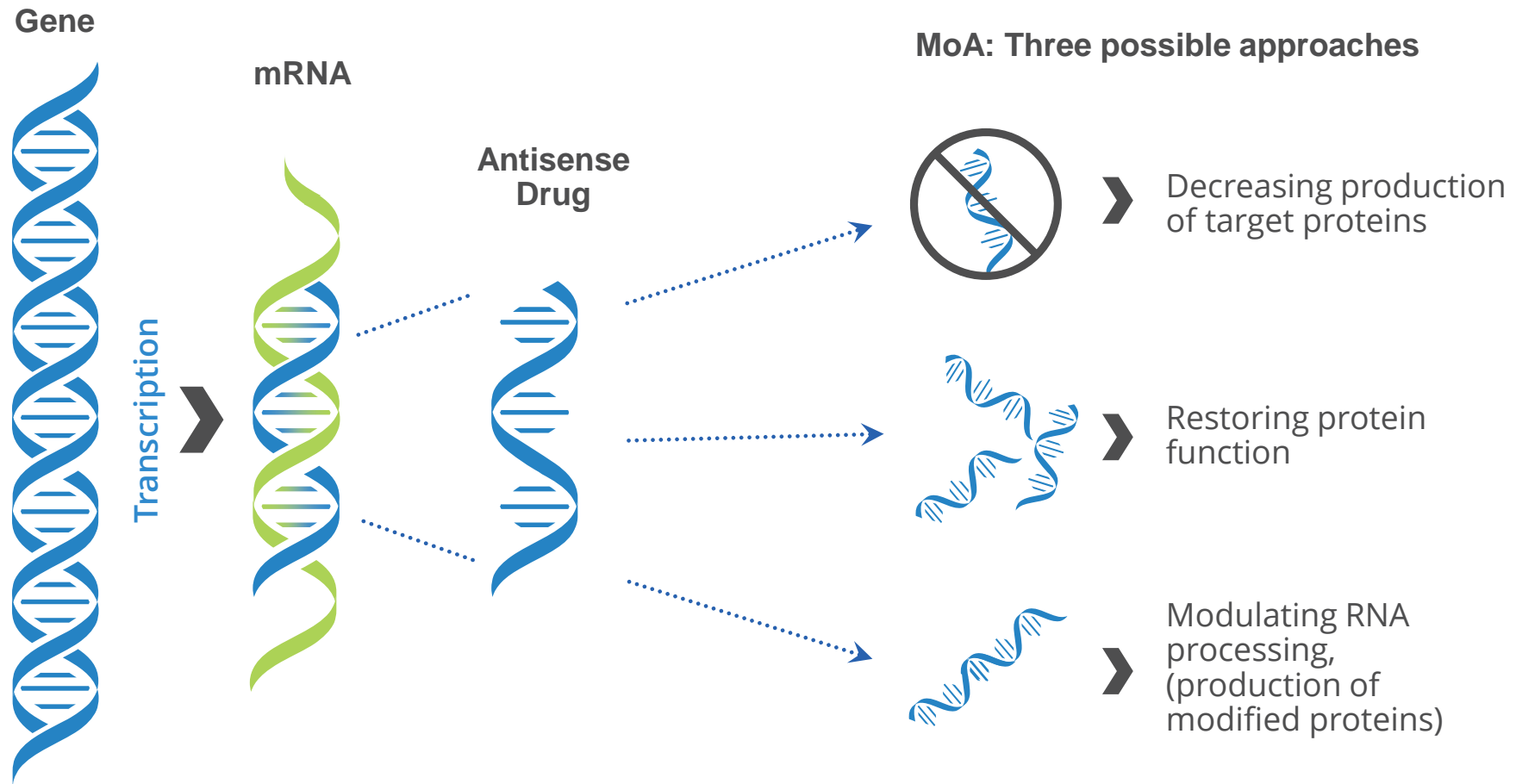


## **Efrat Ozeri-Galai PhD - VP Research**

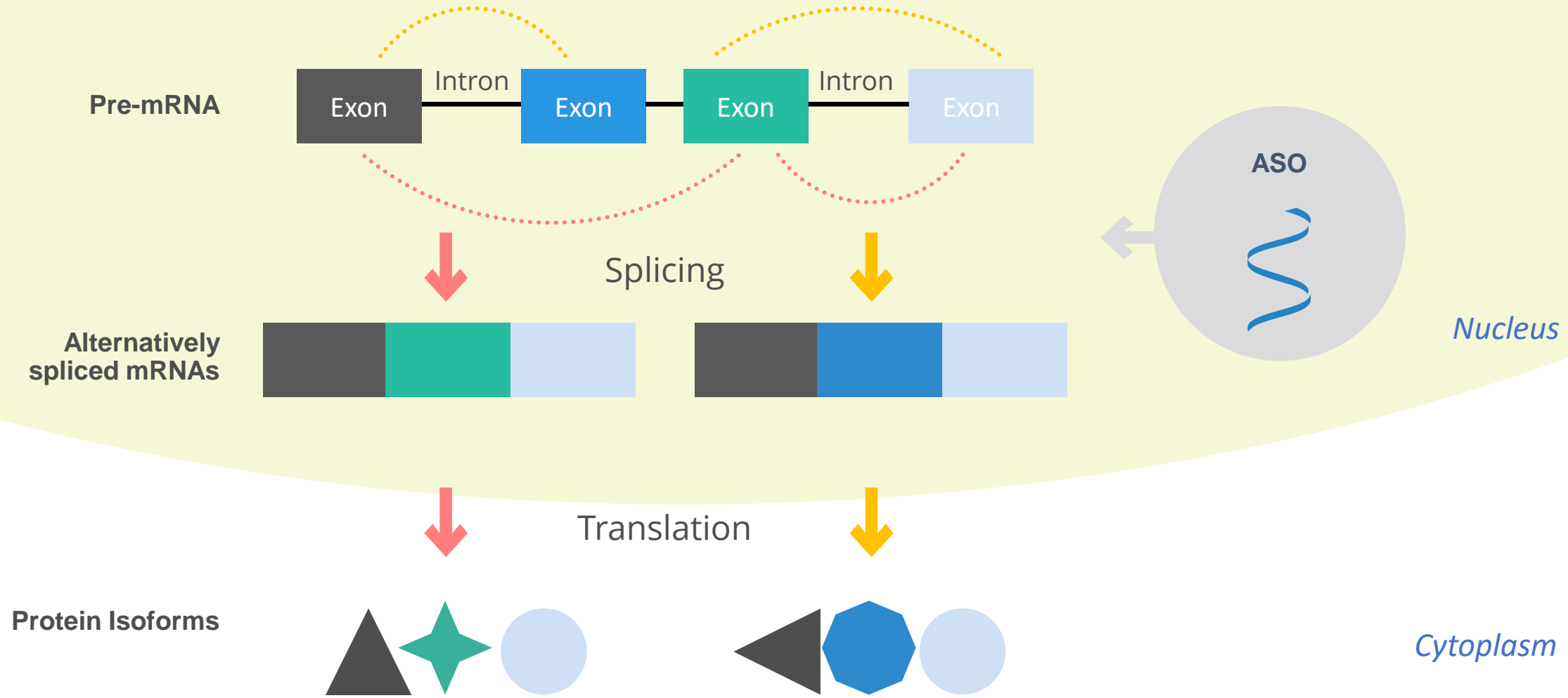
Extensive experience in CF and pulmonary diseases genetics, discovery and pre-clinical development.







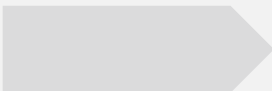
# Antisense Oligonucleotides – Modulating RNA (MoA)



# SpliSense Approach – Splicing Modulation of mRNA

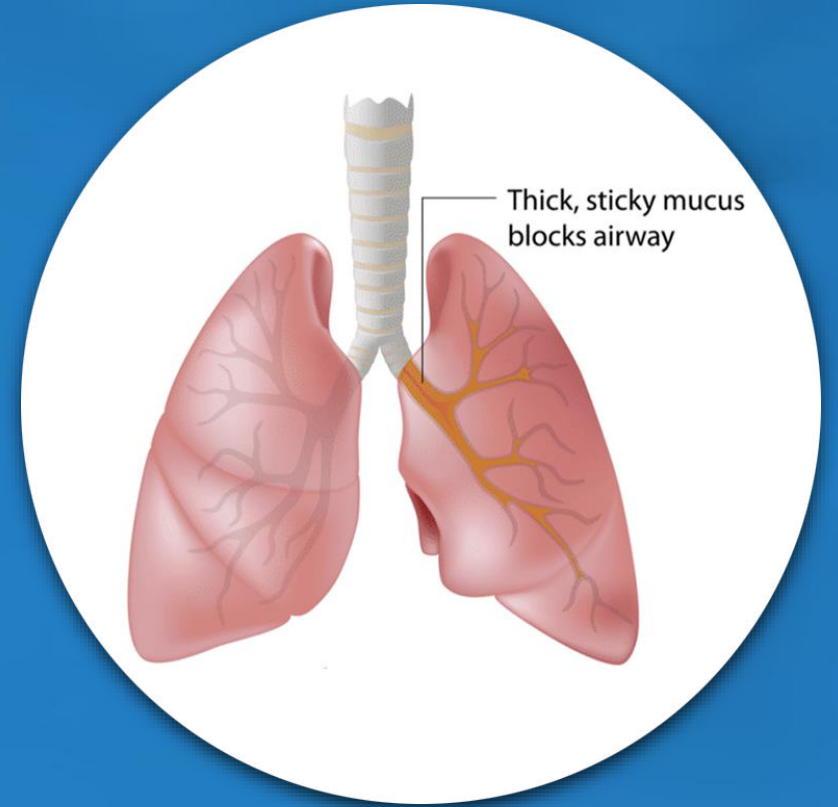


# SpliSense's CF & Pulmonary Diverse Pipeline

Indication	Approach	Program	Discovery	IND Enabling Studies	Clinical Studies
<b>Cystic Fibrosis</b>	Restoration of Protein Function	<b>SPL84-23</b> (3849 Mut.)			H2 2022
		<b>SPL16</b> (2789 Mut.)			
	Production of Modified Protein	<b>SPL23-2</b> (Exon 23 Mut.)			H1 2023
<b>Muco-Obstructive Diseases</b>  (COPD, PCD, CF, Asthma, Pulmonary Fibrosis etc.)	Decrease Production of Over-expressed Proteins	<b>SPL5A/B</b>	 		



# SpliSense ASOs Designed for Proper Delivery to Lungs



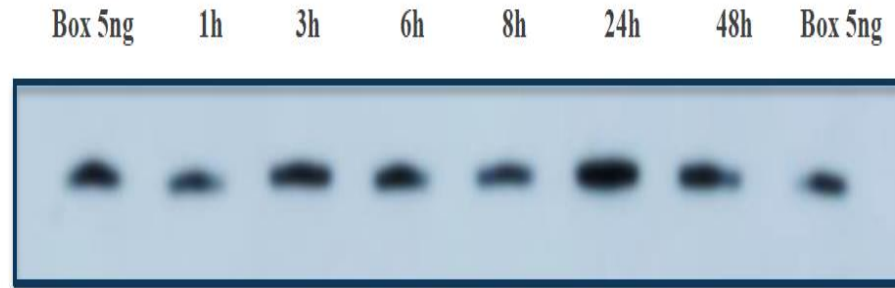


# Use of Inhaled Delivery of ASOs for Lung Diseases

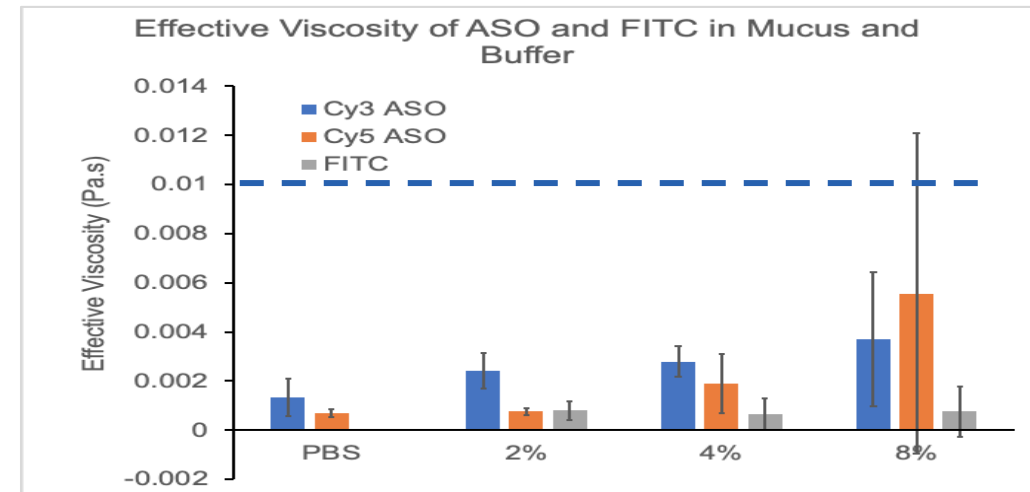
- ASOs are chemically modified for stability and increased lung cells uptake
  - No vectors or delivery vehicles are needed
  - shown to penetrate the cells via endocytosis efficiently
- Enables direct non-invasive delivery even of high doses (highly soluble) with minimal systemic exposure
- ASOs for inhalation:
  - Infrastructure for inhalation is established and commercially available
  - Stable post nebulization
- SpliSense end products are expected to be given to patients once a week or less , thus reducing patients' treatment burden



# SpliSense ASOs are Stable in Hyper-Concentrated Mucus, and Properly Migrate Through it



SPL ASO is stable in patients' mucus

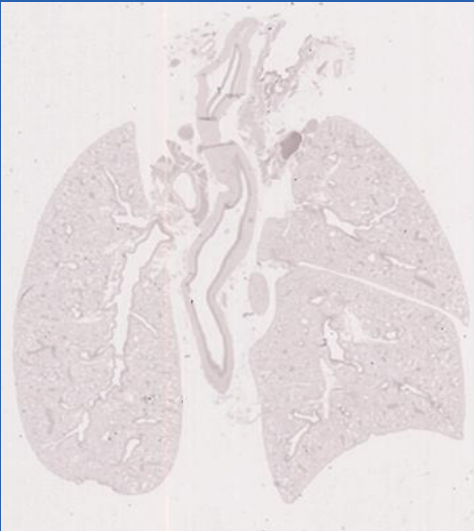


SPL ASO properly migrates through viscous mucus

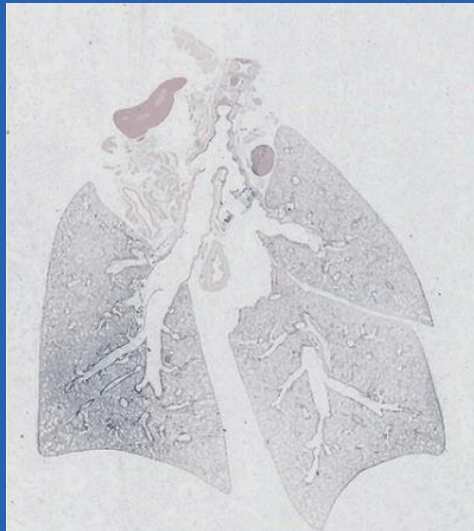
# SpliSense's ASOs Properly Distribute & Are Retained in WT and "Mucus Obstructive" Mice Lungs ( $\beta$ -ENaC Mice Model)

Staining for SPL84-23-1 following IT administration - dark staining

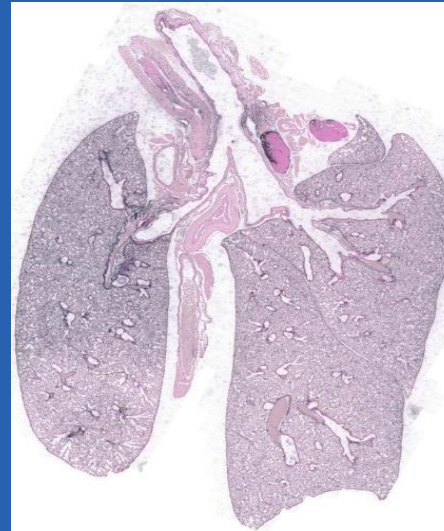
**Negative Control**



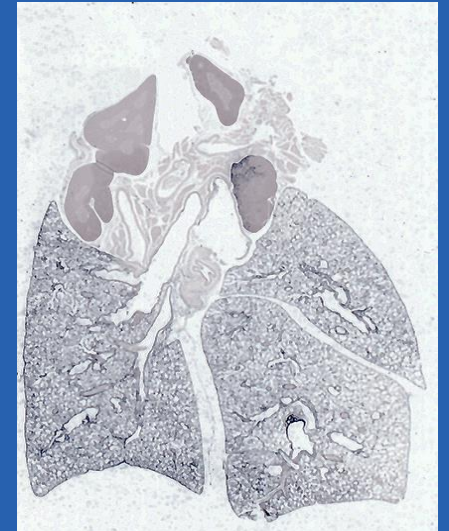
**WT  
24hr post dose**



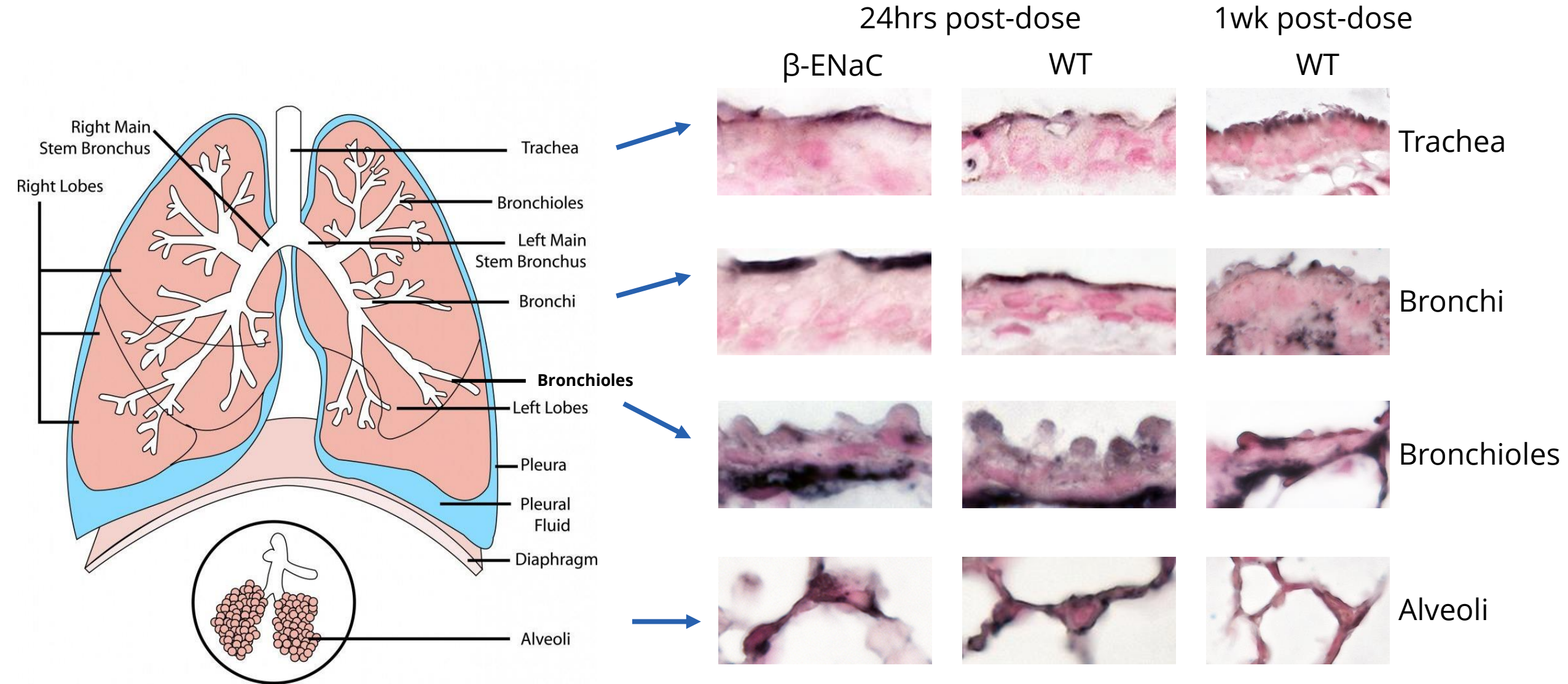
**WT  
1wk post dose**



**$\beta$ -ENaC  
24hr post dose**

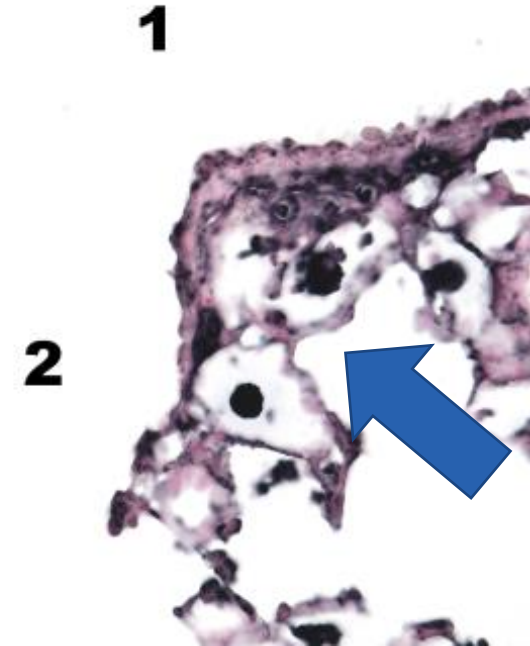
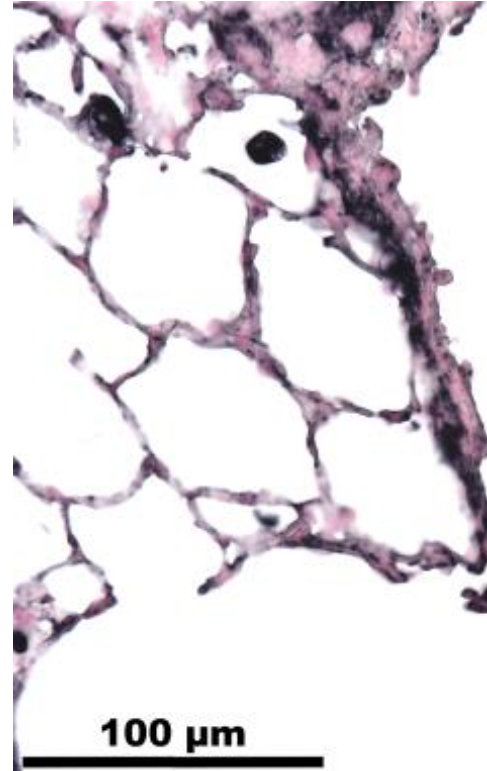
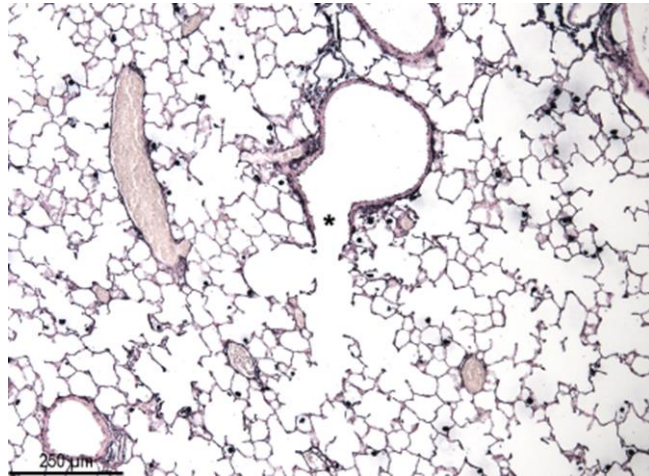


# Comparable Distribution of SpliSense' ASOs in WT and "Mucus Obstructive" ( $\beta$ -ENaC) Mice Lungs





# SpliSense's ASOs Can Be Detected in the Nucleus of Lung Epithelial Cells



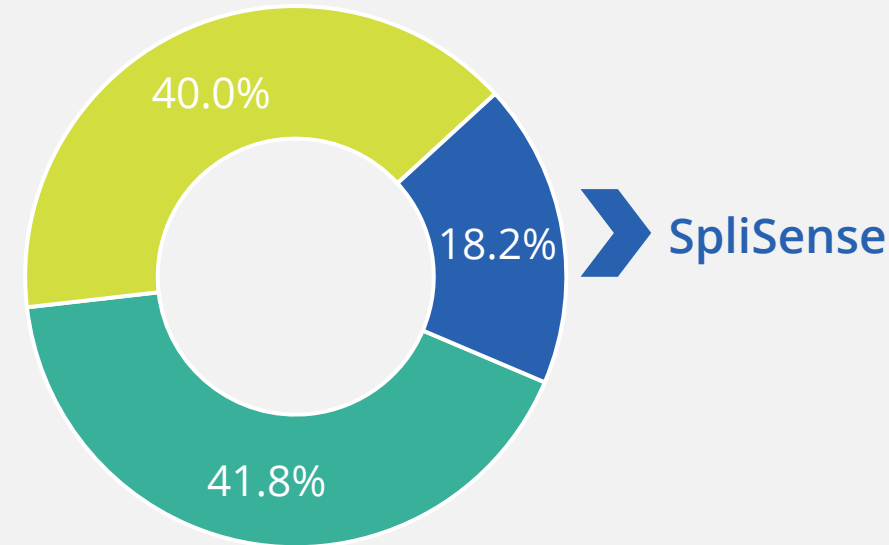
Low and power (objective x10 and x100) microphotograph of lower-level bronchus and bronchiole section of beta ENaC mice lungs suggesting that SPL84-23 penetrates the target cells.

# Cystic Fibrosis Programs

# Cystic Fibrosis – Unmet Need

- A progressive, life shortening autosomal recessive genetic disease due to **dysfunction of the CFTR** transmembrane protein – chloride channel
- Affects ~90,000 people worldwide (80% with F508del mutation)
- The median predicted survival of people with CF is about 39 years
  - Unless carrying the F508del mutation (Trikafta®)
- Existing drugs alleviate symptoms but do not cure the disease
  - Lung transplantation is the only definitive treatment option for CF patients with end stage lung disease

- F508del/F508del
- F508del/Other
- Other/Other



Castellani & Assael, 2017, Hudock & Clancy, 2017,  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Patient Registry Annual Data Report,  
2019



# SPL84-23

## (Anti 3849 Mutation ASO)



Retains protein  
structure and  
activity

# 3849 Mutation – Unmet Need



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Patient population  
~1300  
(Annual Growth 3%)



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Kalydeco® FEV1  
Effect < 2.7%.



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Symdeko® FEV1  
Effect < 6%.



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Annual Treatment  
Cost – \$300k



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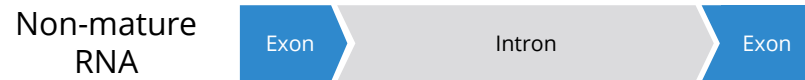
No approved drug  
in EU



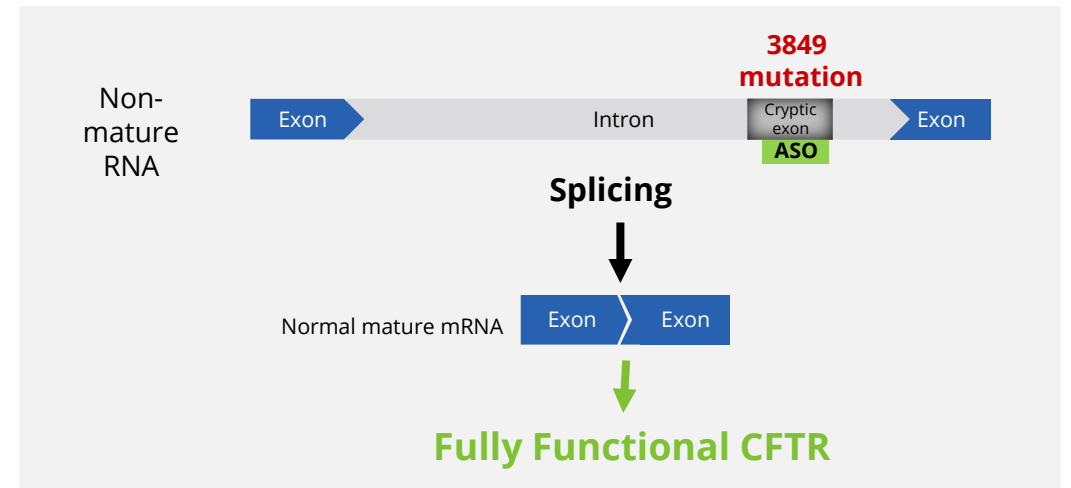
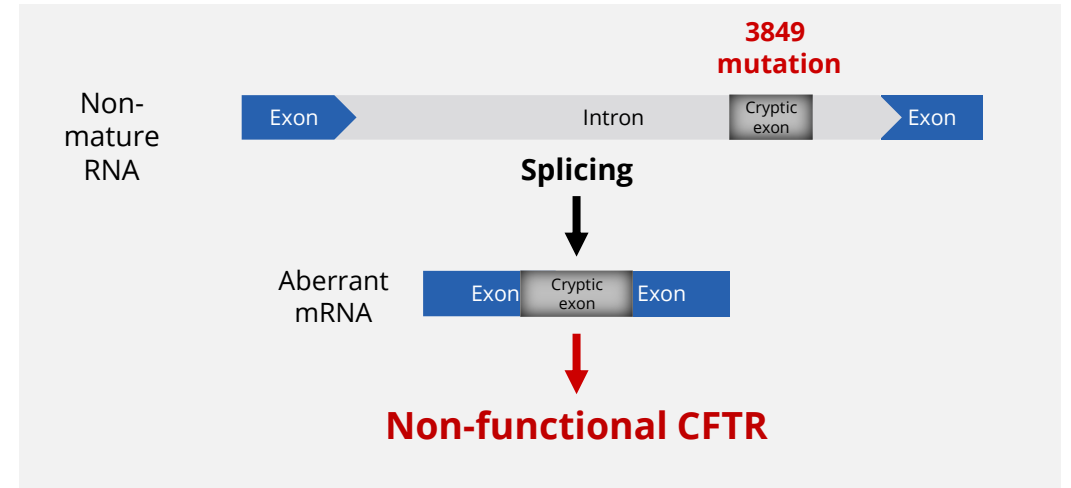
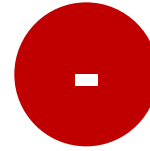
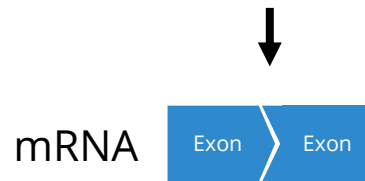
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US CF Foundation  
Mission and Funding

# ASO Technology Produce Mature and Functioning WT CFTR



During splicing, introns are removed, and exons are joined together producing the mRNA

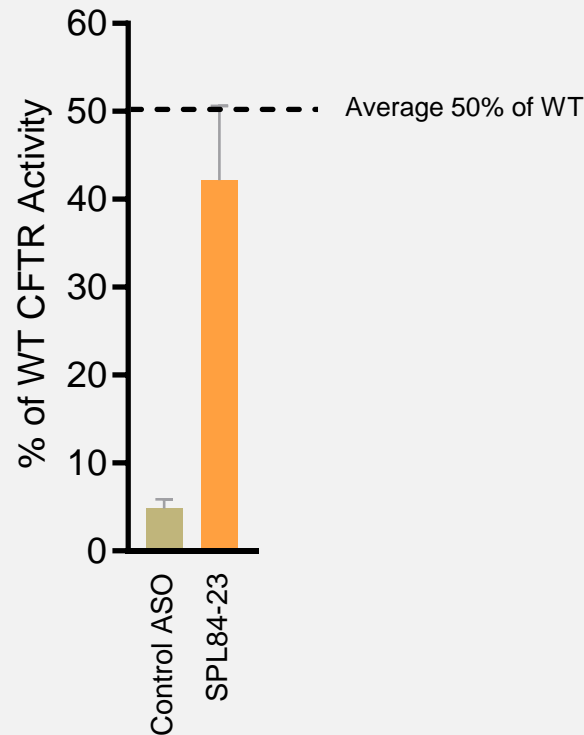


Oren *et al.* 2021

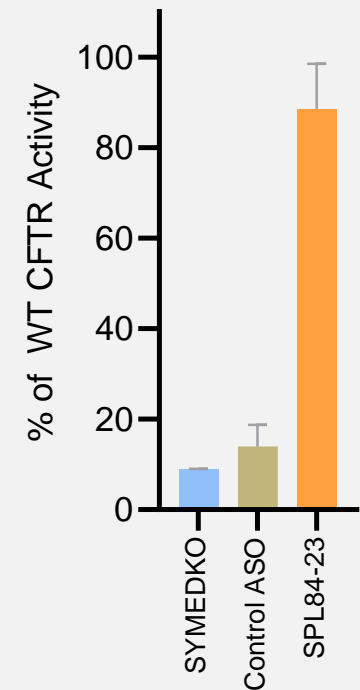
# SPL84-23 Completely Restores CFTR Function in Patients Derived Cells (90% of WT- Ussing Assay)

- **Ussing Assay is a Gold Standard for CF drugs efficacy assessment (FDA)**
- SPL84-23 completely restore CFTR function in 3849 patients derived Human Nasal Epithelial Cells (HNEs)
- SPL84-23 completely restore CFTR function in 3849 patients derived Bronchi Epithelial Cells (HBEs)

Average of HNEs from 5 patients carrying the 3849 mutation\*



HBEs from a patient (3849/3849)\*



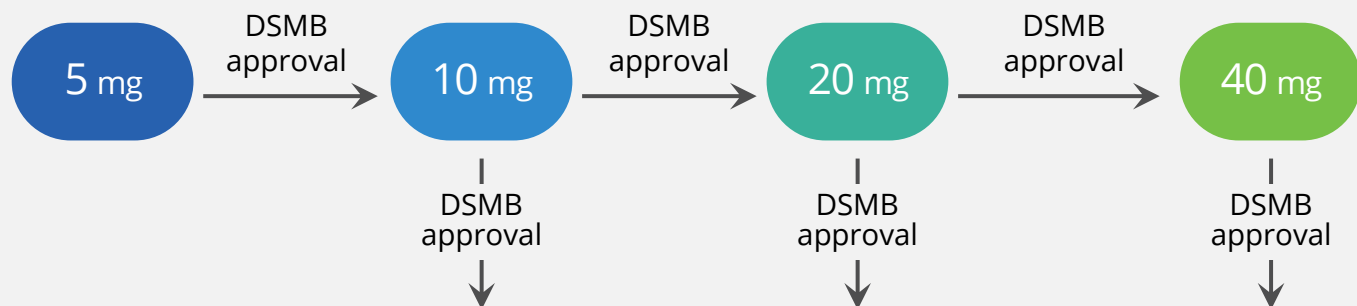
Durmowicz *et al.* 2018, Pranke *et al.* 2017, Oren *et al.* 2021

# Phase 1/2a Proposed Clinical Study Design To Be Initiated in H2 2022

## Part 1:

### Single Ascending Dose (SAD)

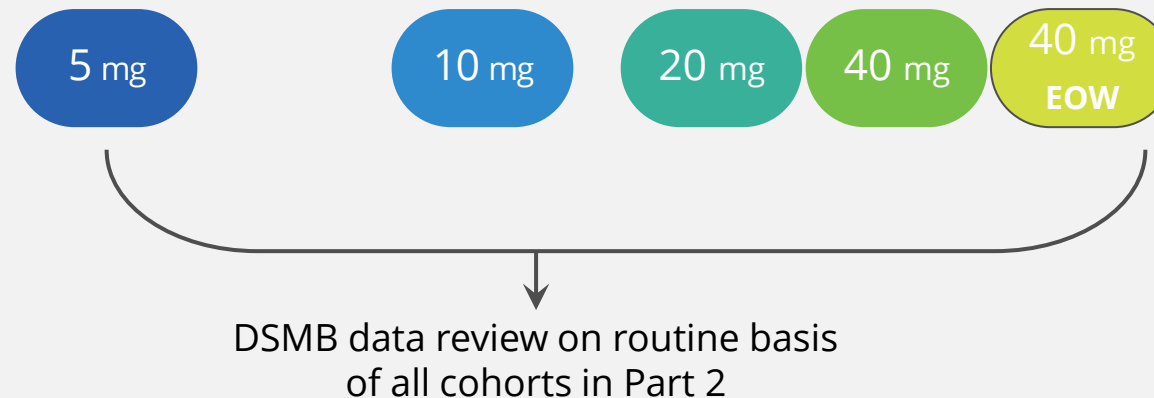
n=32, 1:3 Placebo : ASO



## Part 2:

### Multiple Ascending Dose (MAD)

n=36 1:3 Placebo: ASO  
1 dose/week x 8 weeks



<b>Primary Objective</b>	Assessment of safety and tolerability of inhaled SPL84-23-1
<b>Secondary Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ To evaluate the change from baseline in laboratory parameters and vital signs</li><li>➤ To measure the pharmacokinetics (PK) of SPL84-23-1 administered via inhalation</li></ul>
<b>Exploratory Objectives</b>	To explore the efficacy of ascending doses of SPL84-23-1 administered via inhalation (% change in FEV1 at 8 weeks)

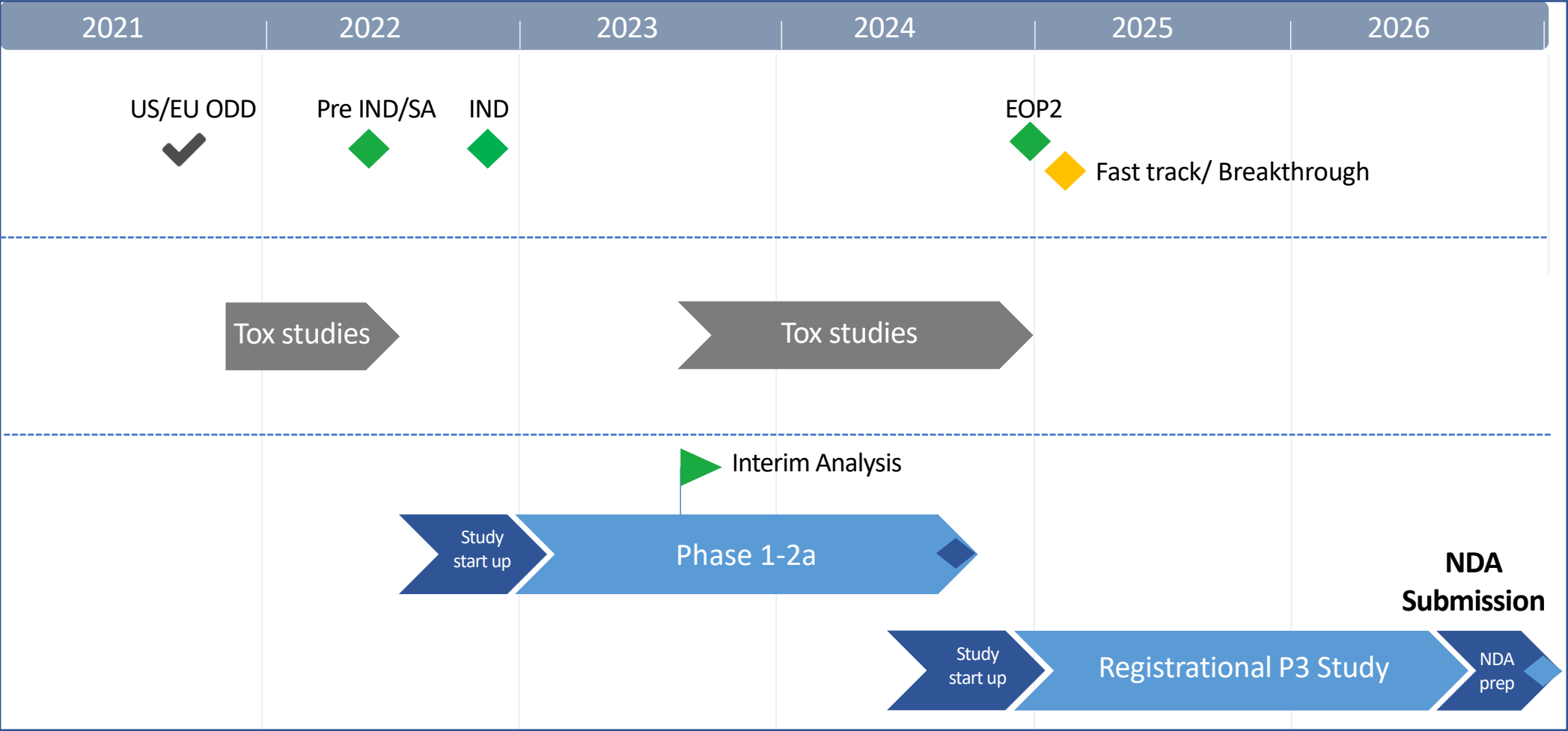
\*Final doses will be selected based on tox. results

# SPL84-23 Program (3849) Expedite Path To Approval

Regulatory

Pre- Clinical

Clinical



# SPL23-2

## (Anti W1282X Mutation ASO)



Modulates RNA  
processing and  
production of  
modified proteins

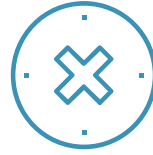


# W1282X (Exon 23) Mutation – Unmet Need



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Patient population  
~1000



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W1282X/non-F508del  
patients -  
**no approved drug**



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Patient # Annual  
Growth 3.5%

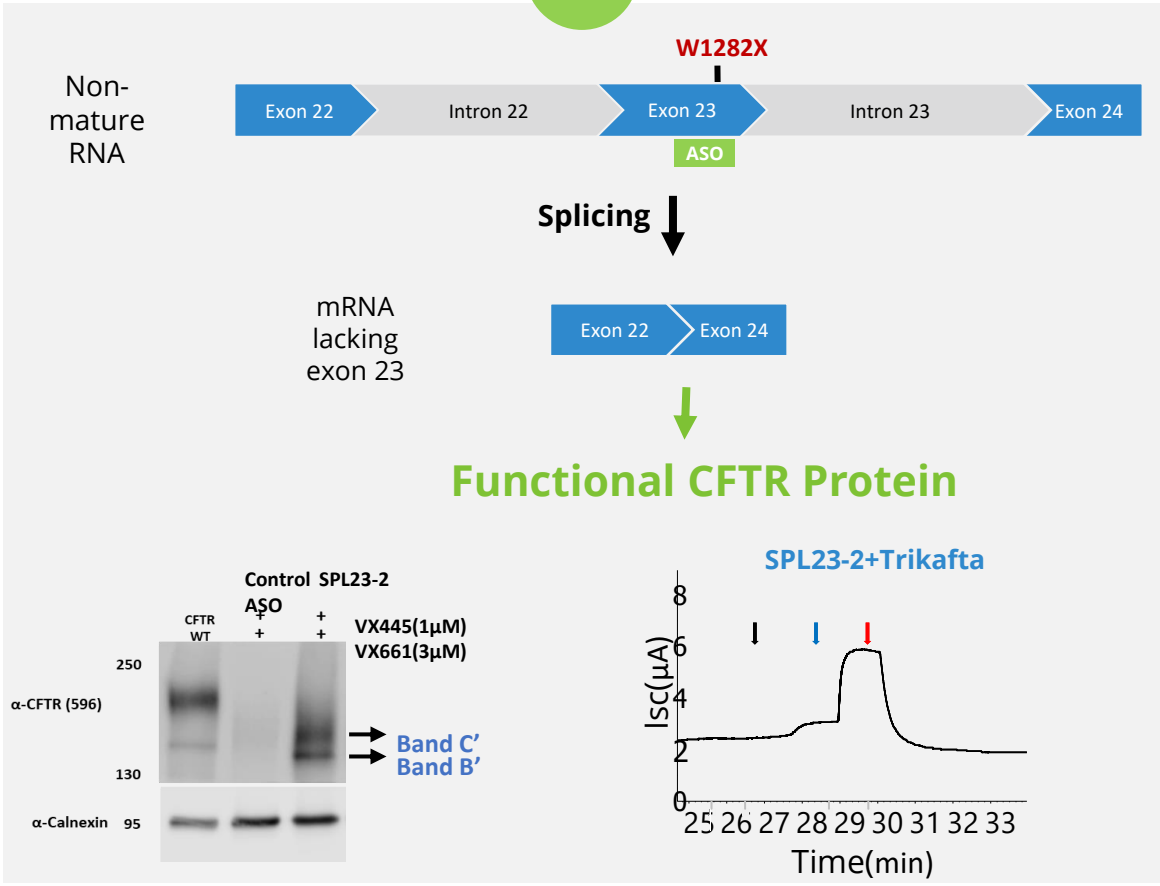
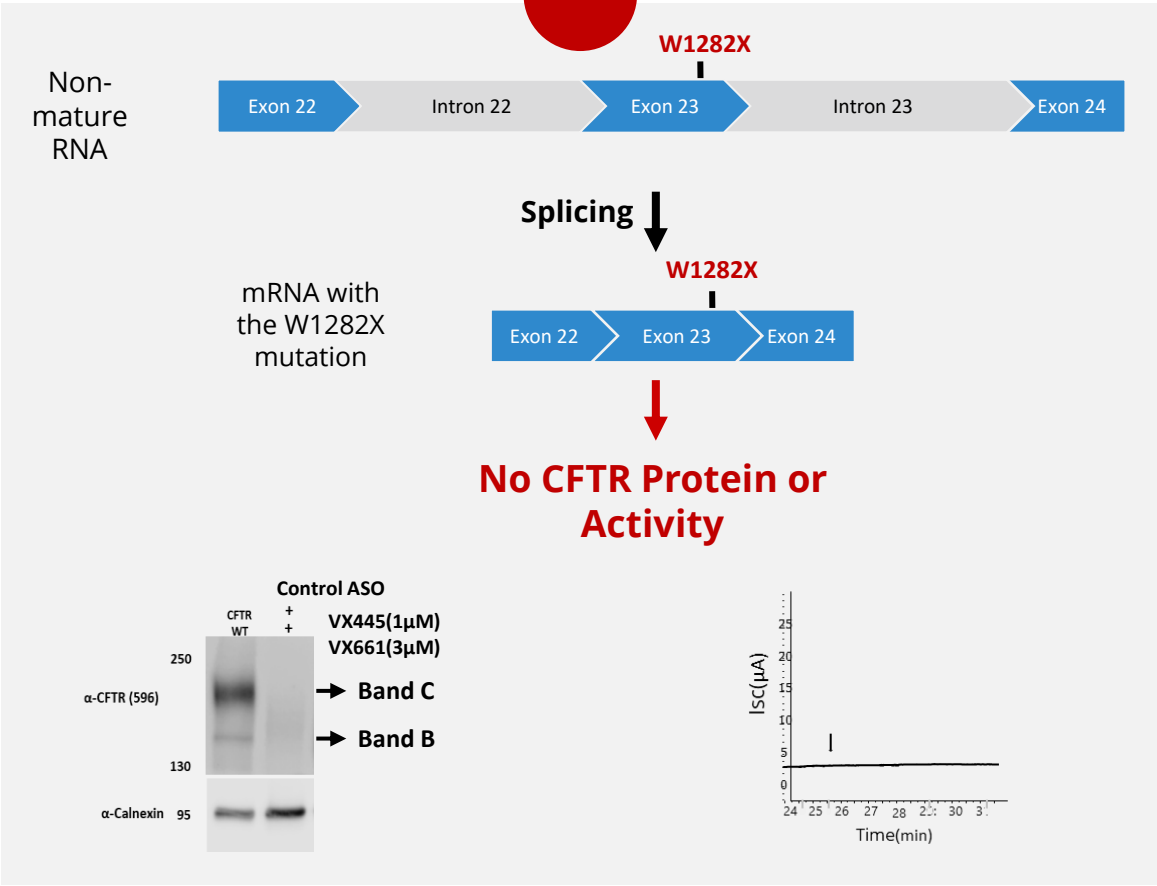
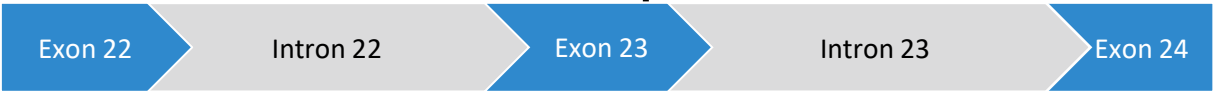


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Potential Expedite  
Regulatory path

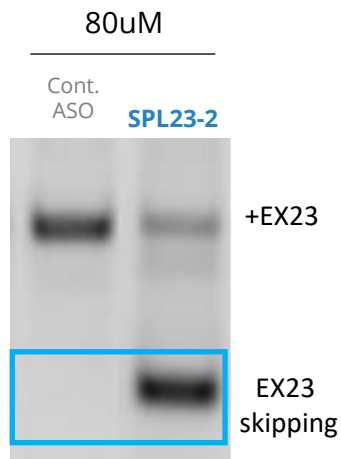
# W1282X Mutation: No CFTR Protein & No Activity

W1282X

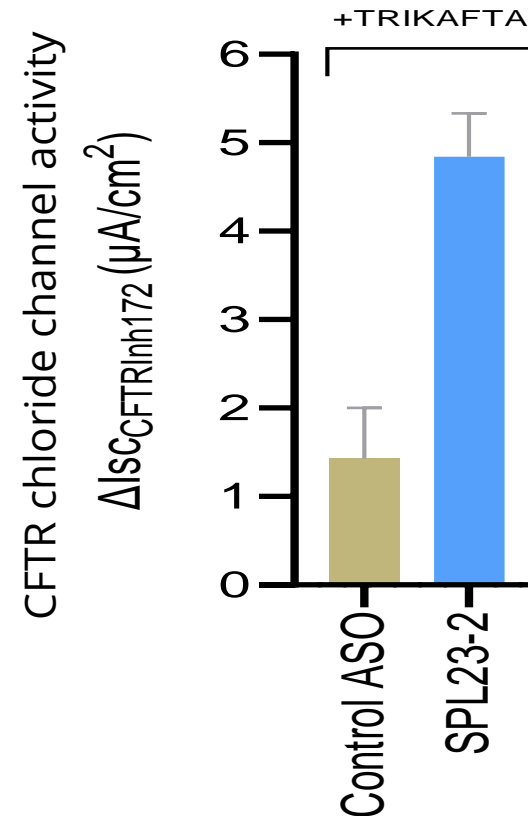


# SPL232 Properly Restores CFTR Function in W1282X Patient Derived Cells (36% of WT- Ussing Assay)

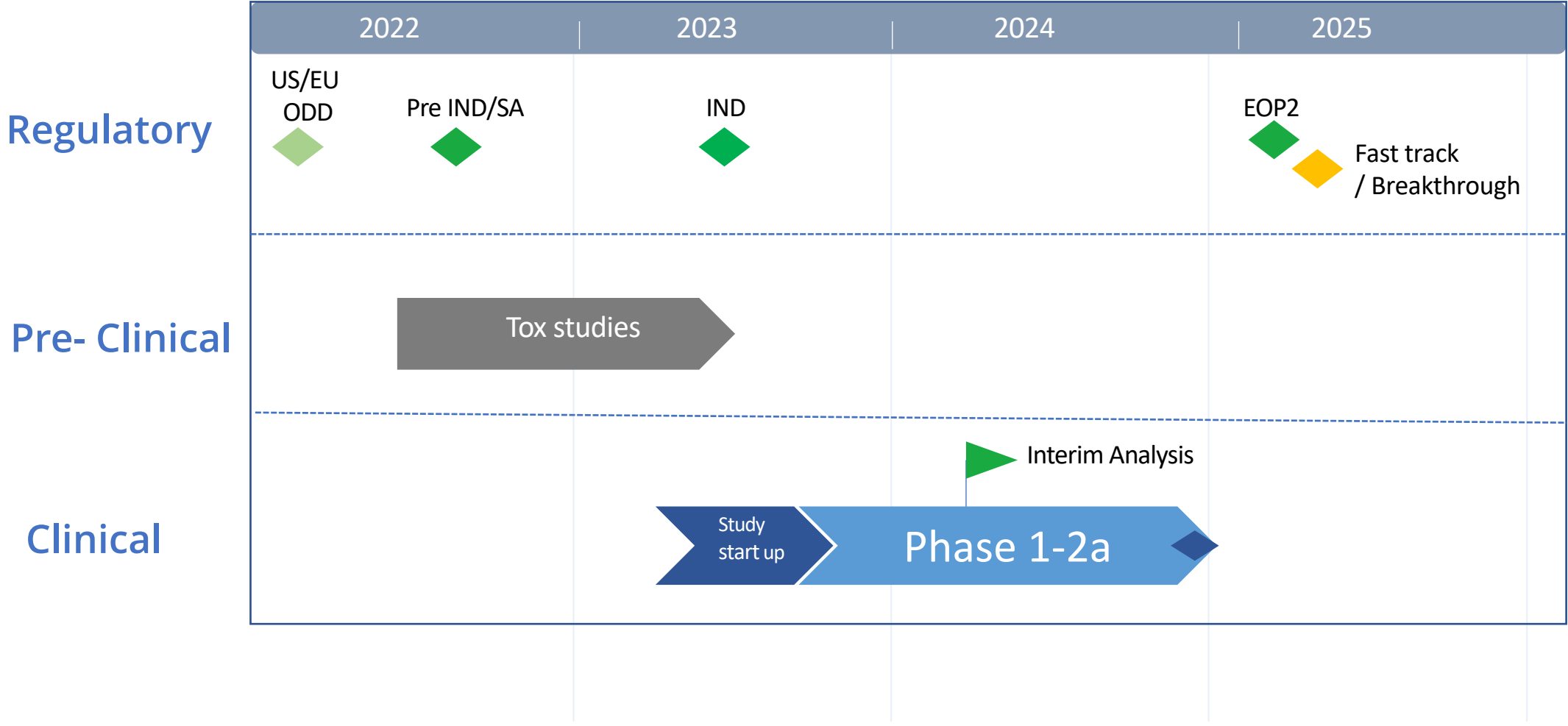
Dose Dependent Exon 23 Skipping (RNA level)



Restoration of CFTR Function by Ussing



# SPL23-2 Program (W1282x) Clinical & Regulatory Road Map



# Expanding SpliSense Platform Technology from Orphan to Large Pulmonary Indications



# Muco-Obstructive Diseases

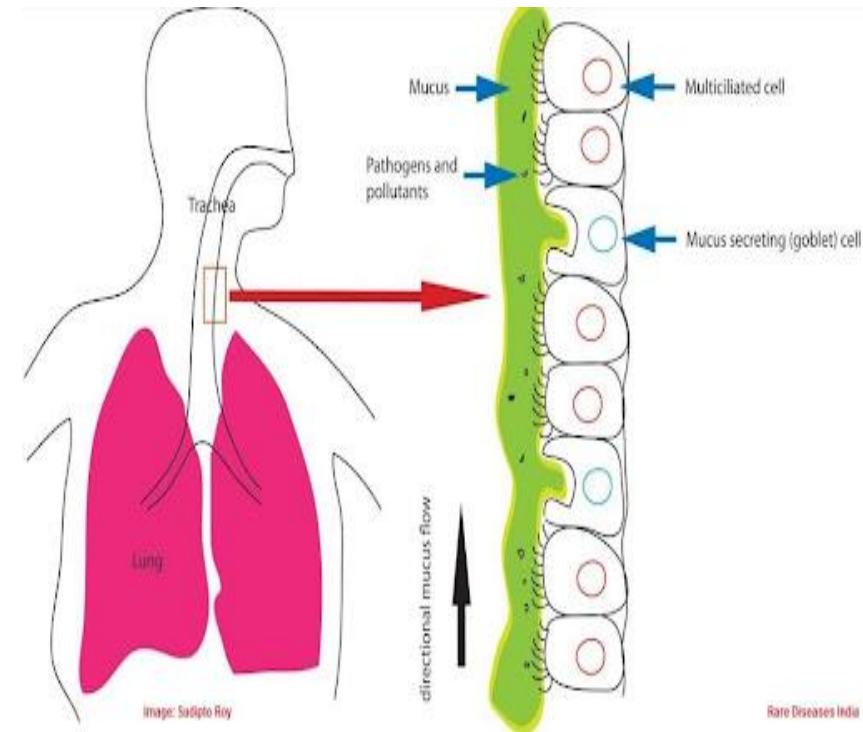
## Mucin Lowering ASO SPL5



Decrease production  
of over-expressed  
proteins

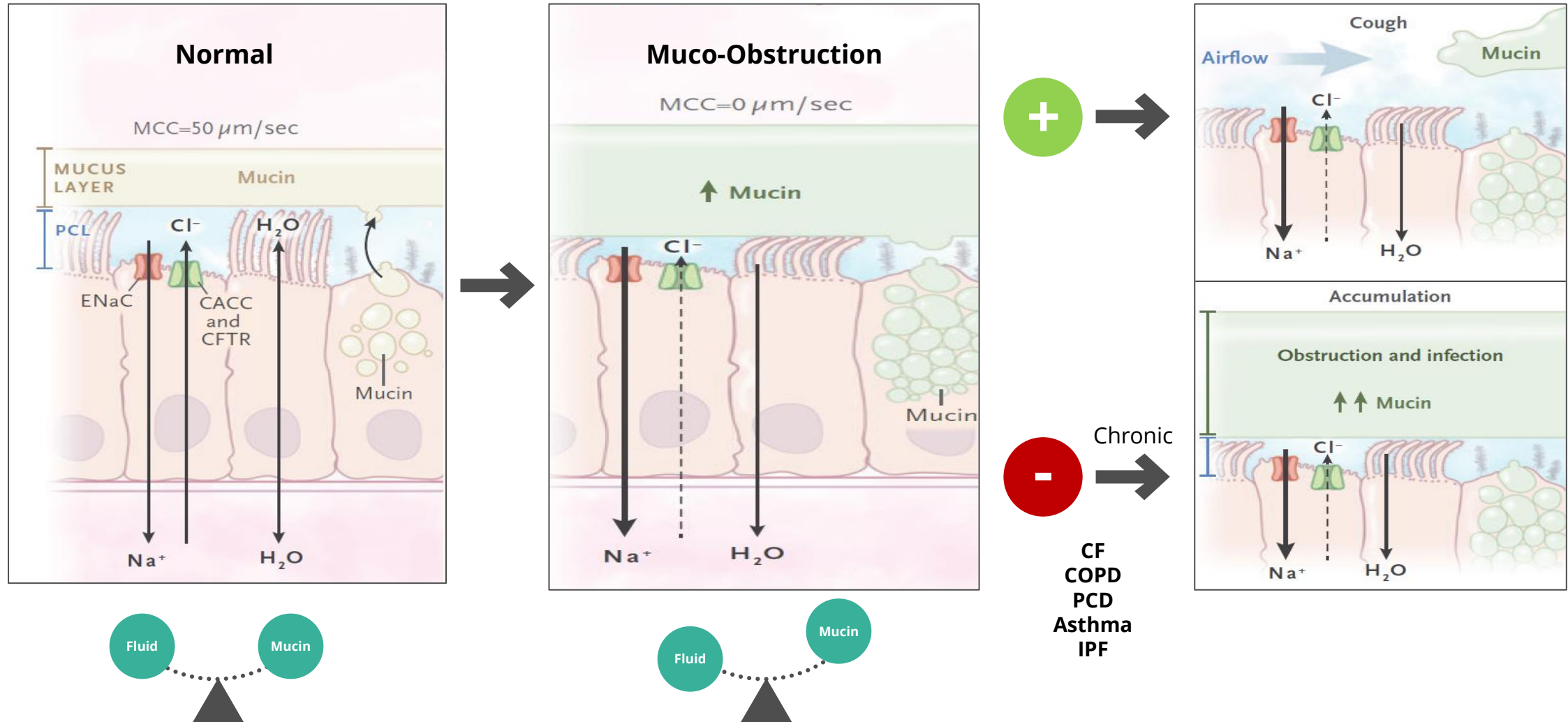
# Mucus Hypersecretion is a Clinical Feature of Severe Respiratory Diseases.

- **Mucus**- The first line of innate defense against inhaled pathogens and particles in the respiratory tract is airway mucus
  - Mucus layer comprised of approximately 98% water, 2% solids (mostly mucins)
- MUC5AC, MUC5B are predominate mucins secreted in the lungs and polymerize to form gels
  - In muco-obstructive diseases **mucins content increases to 5-9%**
- Mucus and mucins are generated by goblet cells
- Excessive mucus drives:
  - Respiratory infections
  - Pathogenesis of numerous respiratory diseases
  - Respiratory air blockage



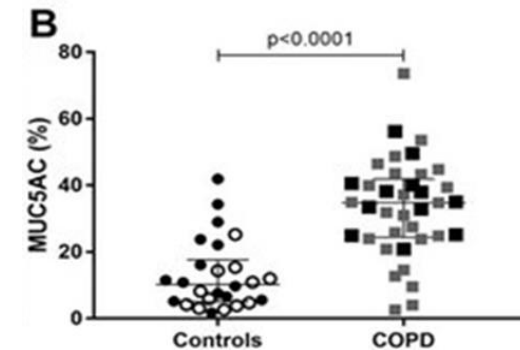


# Muco-Obstructive Lung Disease Progression

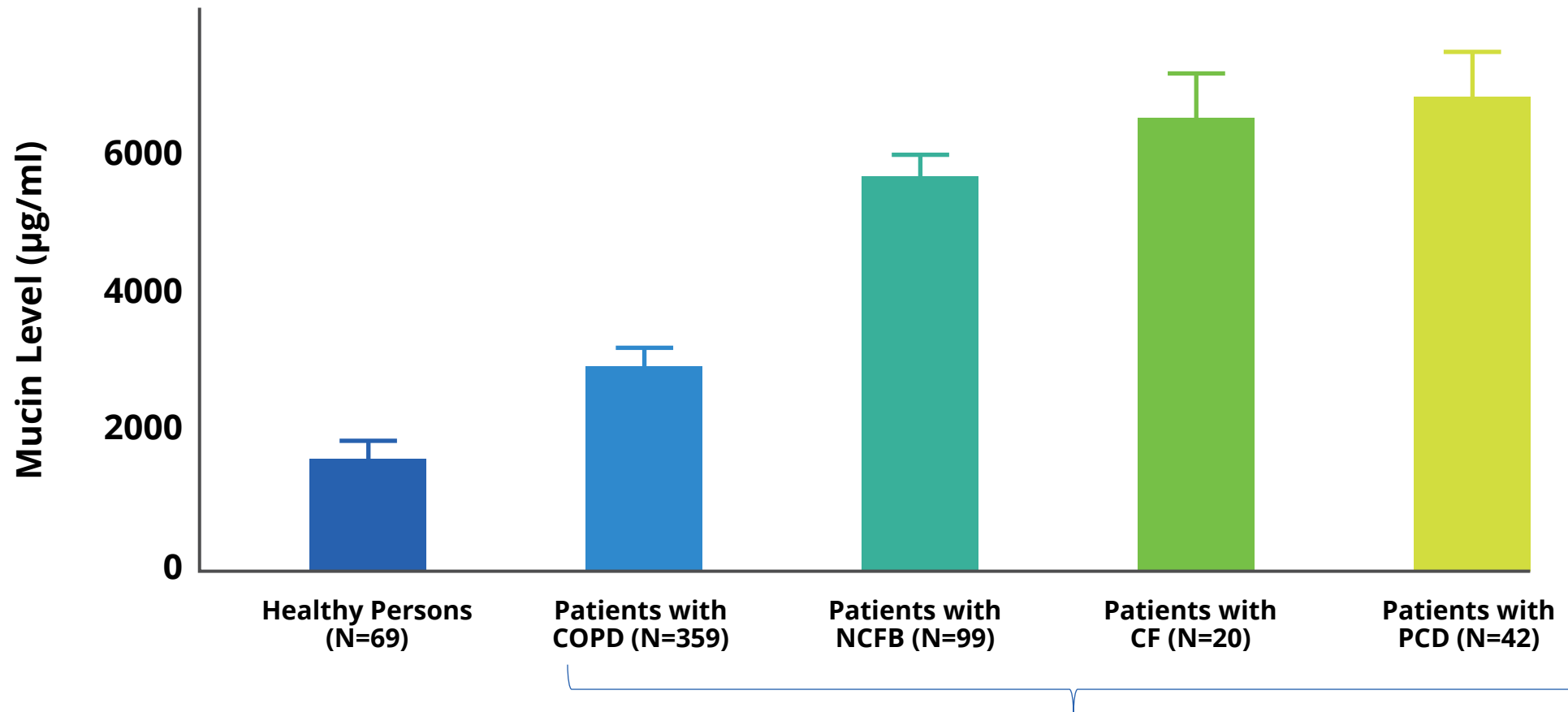


# MUC5AB and MUC5C are Dominate Players in Pulmonary Diseases Progression and Severity

- MUC5AC and MUC5B levels are higher in **COPD patients (3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause of death by disease in US)**
  - In COPD sputum, both MUC5AC and MUC5B protein levels are significantly increased
  - Levels of MUC5B and MUC5AC in current/ former smokers with severe COPD were approx. 3X and 10X higher, respectively, than non-smokers
  - MUC5B overproduction correlates with an increase in disease severity and decreased lung function
- **In Asthma**, MUC5AC levels are significantly increased
- Total mucin concentrations in **CF sputum** are elevated as compared to healthy control subjects
- Chronic overexpression of MUC5B, driven by single base mutation, is the single greatest risk factor for the development of **Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF)**

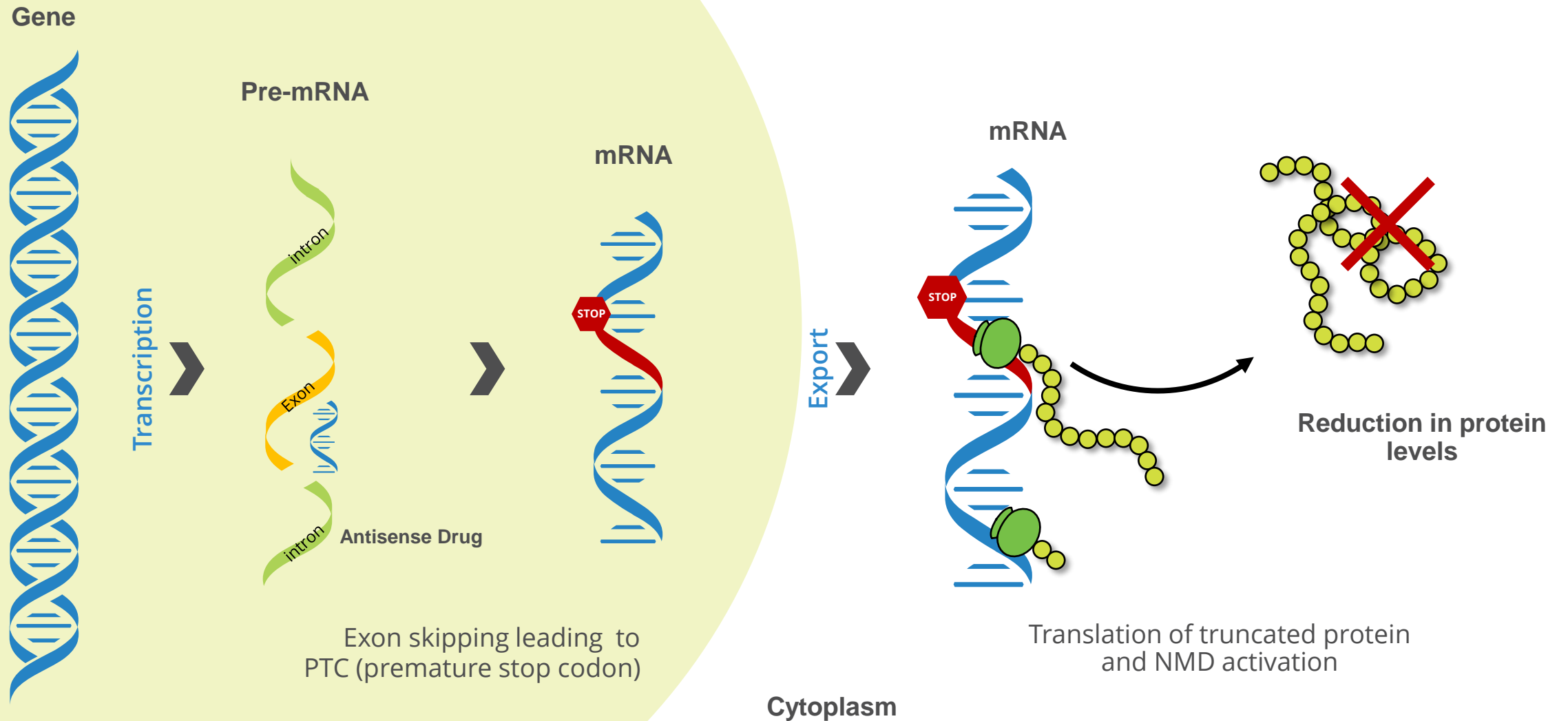


# Mucins Excessive Production in Patients with Pulmonary Diseases

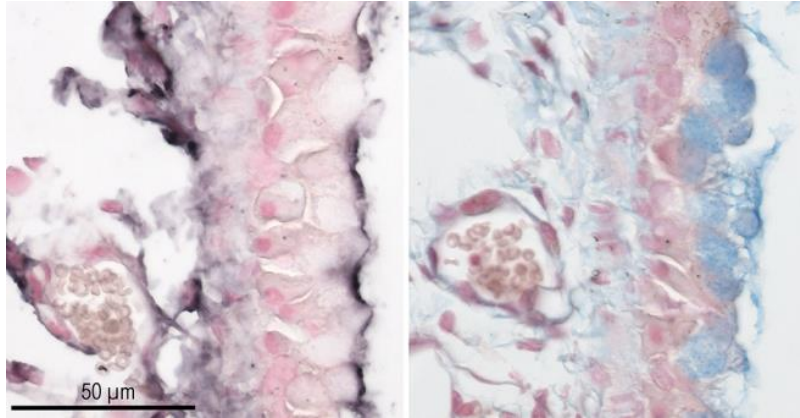


Large Market Potential

# SPL5 Lowers RNA and Protein Expression (MoA)



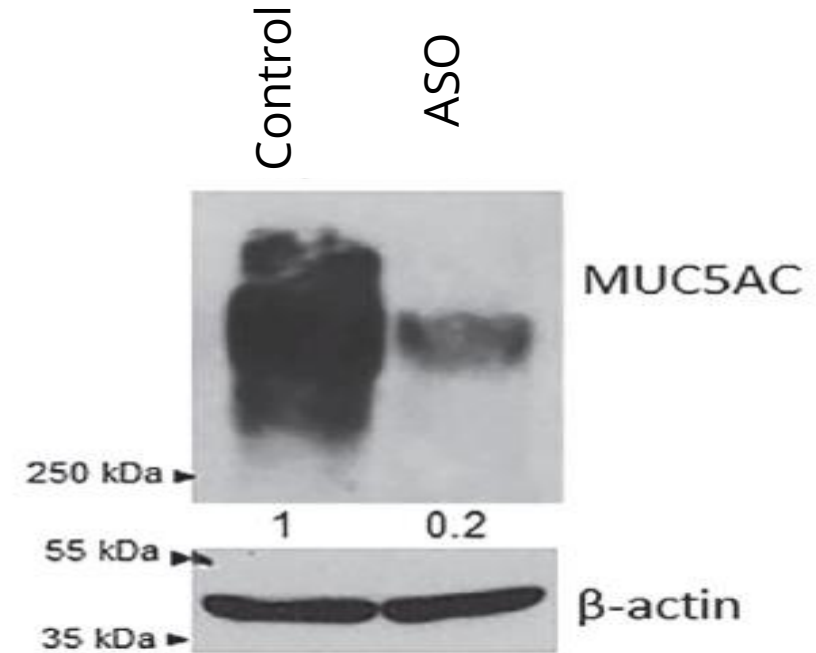
# PoC Mucin Lowering ASO: Lungs Goblets Cells Distribution and In Vitro Activity



Hybridization signal at the apical part  
of goblet cells (Beta ENaC mice)

Black staining - SPL ASO

Blue staining - Mucus in goblet cells



A549 Cells  
Lung Cancer Cells

# Investment Opportunity (I)

- Splisense is a **pulmonary focused company** using ASO technology to modulate RNA, and thus mastering protein production and expression in a specific and targeted manner.
  - clinically validated technology
- Proper **penetration, migration and stability in Mucus**
- Established and robust inhalation approach (lung distribution, cellular penetration, inhalation device, safety assessment)
- Diverse pipeline
  - Large market potential
    - Initial focus on high unmet need, orphan indications (CF) Subsequent expansion to larger, non orphan pulmonary indications (muco- obstructive diseases)
  - 2 programs in IND enabling phase; **2 clinical studies to commence in 2022**
- **1<sup>st</sup> program, SPL84-23, fully funded up to phase 1-2 study completion (CF Foundation)**



# Investment Opportunity (II)

## 2022 Financial round:

- Splisense is seeking to raise \$40M to support 2022-24 expenses including:
  - 2 phase 1-2 clinical studies completion:
    - SPL23-2 (Anti W1282X Mutation ASO)
    - SPL16 (Anti 2789 Mutation ASO)
    - Phase 3 setup activities SPL84-23 (Anti 3849 mutation)
  - Advancing 2 pre-clinical programs into the clinic
    - Mucus lowering ASOs
      - MUC5AC
      - MU5B





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# Thank You!

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