

# Life Science Caucus Meeting

June 28, 2022

7:30am

Co-chairs:

Senators Newton and Woodard

Representatives White and Reives

Meeting will begin shortly



# Agenda

- Welcoming Remarks by Chairs
  - Senators Paul Newton and Mike Woodard
  - Representatives Donna White and Robert Reives
- Rare Disease Advisory Council remarks
  - Representative Becky Carney
- Transforming the Clinical Outcomes on Individuals with Rare Diseases: The Gene Therapy Journey
  - Dr. Priya Kishnani - Duke Undiagnosed Network
- The Path of Hope Begins with a Diagnosis
  - Dr. Vandana Shashi – Duke Undiagnosed Network
- An Overview of Cell and Gene Therapy Payment Policy
  - Dr. Marianne Hamilton Lopez –Duke Margolis
- The Patient Perspective
  - Nickey Hosey, SMA parent and patient advocate
  - Charlene Cowell, executive director, Hemophilia of North Carolina
- Q & A

# Priya Kishnani, MD

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Dr. Kishnani is Chief, Division of Medical Genetics, at Duke University Medical Center and the Medical Director of the YT and Alice Chen Pediatrics Genetics and Genomics Center which has a focus on developing new therapies for rare genetic disorders. Throughout her career, Dr. Kishnani's primary focus has been the translation of laboratory science into the clinical arena, especially in the area of such therapeutic interventions as enzyme replacement therapy, gene therapy and small molecules. Dr. Kishnani has propelled a translational research program at Duke with a T1-T4 impact, implementing bench-to-bedside approach, from the bedside back to the bench for further advances toward the diagnosis, treatment and management of patients with rare genetic diseases. Her primary clinical and research focus is in patients with Glycogen Storage diseases Types (I, II, III IV, VI and IX), Lysosomal Storage diseases, Hypophosphatasia, other inborn errors of metabolism and Down syndrome.

Spanning her career Dr. Kishnani has shown commitment to understanding the long-term complications and the natural history and evaluation of therapies of several GSDs, with a specific focus on GSD I, II, III, IV, VI and IX. An example of her work is in GSD II (Pompe disease) where she was responsible for the clinical translation from the bench and served as the lead investigator for the pivotal trials which led to FDA approval of Myozyme™ (2006)/Lumizyme™ (2010) as the first treatments for Pompe disease. She has also played a role in newborn screening efforts for rare diseases and played a pivotal role in getting Pompe, MPSI and MPSII added to the recommended uniform screening panel.

# Vandana Shashi, MBBS, MD



I am a clinical geneticist and pediatrician. I obtained my medical degree from the University of Mysore, India and post-graduate training in Pediatrics from Mangalore University in India. Subsequently, I completed my residency in Pediatrics from the Bowman Gray School of Medicine, NC in 1992 and a fellowship in Clinical Genetics at the University of Virginia, VA, in 1995. I am board certified in Clinical Genetics. After working as a clinical geneticist at Wake Forest University in NC for 12 years, I joined the faculty at Duke University in 2008 and am a Professor of Pediatrics within the Division of Medical Genetics.

I have taken care of adult and pediatric patients with undiagnosed and rare disorders for the past 25 years. When the diagnosis is not readily apparent, I have observed families invest inordinate amounts of effort, time and finances to obtain a diagnosis. The majority of such undiagnosed patients (~85%) are thought to have an unidentified genetic disorder. As the PI of the Duke clinical site for the Undiagnosed Diseases Network (UDN), funded by the NIH, I evaluate patients with undiagnosed diseases and apply genomic sequencing to obtain diagnoses. I also run the Duke sequencing clinic. In both settings, rare ultra-rare genetic disorders are diagnosed, with resulting changes in medical management, and treatment and immense psychological relief from obtaining a diagnosis. I have delineated the phenotype and genetics of many genetic syndromes identified through sequencing, such as a new neurodevelopmental disorder with severe epilepsy NACC1 [OMIM#617393] and Shashi-Pena syndrome, due to truncating variants in ASXL2 [OMIM#617190]. Overall, under my leadership the Duke UDN site has been responsible for 18 new gene discoveries that are associated with ultra-rare genetic disorders and for the highest rate of diagnoses in the network.

I have also in the course of my clinical and research experience, observed that patients who lived in rural and medically underserved areas (MUA) tend not to participate in genomic medicine and thus experience disparities in outcomes. Not having a diagnosis results in patients/parents having difficulty in being effective advocates for themselves/their children and they suffer enormously- we found that ~40% of undiagnosed patients/parents meet criteria for depression/anxiety, most of which goes unnoticed, since they seldom express this unless asked. The Duke UDN site, under my leadership, was the first in the network to ascertain patients who had declined NGS (more likely to live in MUA and be non-White) to ask for their perspectives and we found that a number of practical as well as sociocultural factors underlie non-participation, such as low genomic knowledge. We are implementing telehealth to increase participation in medically underserved areas.



# Marianne Hamilton Lopez, PhD

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Marianne Hamilton Lopez, PhD, is the Senior Research Director of Biomedical Innovation and an adjunct associate professor and core faculty at the Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy in Washington, DC. She leads the strategic design and direction of the Center's Biomedical Innovation portfolio, with a focus on medical products development and regulation, real world evidence, infectious disease preparedness, and payment, pricing, and coverage of drugs and medical devices. She also oversees the Value for Medical Products Consortium and partners with Duke University faculty, scholars, and external health experts to advance this work. Prior to joining Duke-Margolis, Dr. Hamilton Lopez was a senior program officer with the National Academy of Medicine's Leadership Consortium for a Value & Science-Driven Health System and led the Consortium's Science and Technology portfolio and Clinical Effectiveness Research Innovation and the Digital Learning Collaboratives. She was a Senior Manager at AcademyHealth; a Public Health Community Advisor for the United States Cochrane Center; and the Federal Women's Program Manager and American Indian/Alaska Native Employment Program Manager for the National Institutes of Health.



Rare Disease  
Innovations Institute

# Transforming the clinical outcomes of individuals with Rare diseases: The Gene Therapy Journey

Cell & Gene Legislative Breakfast  
June 28, 2022

**Priya S. Kishnani, MD**

Professor of Pediatrics  
Division Chief, Medical Genetics  
Duke University Medical Center



# Disclosures

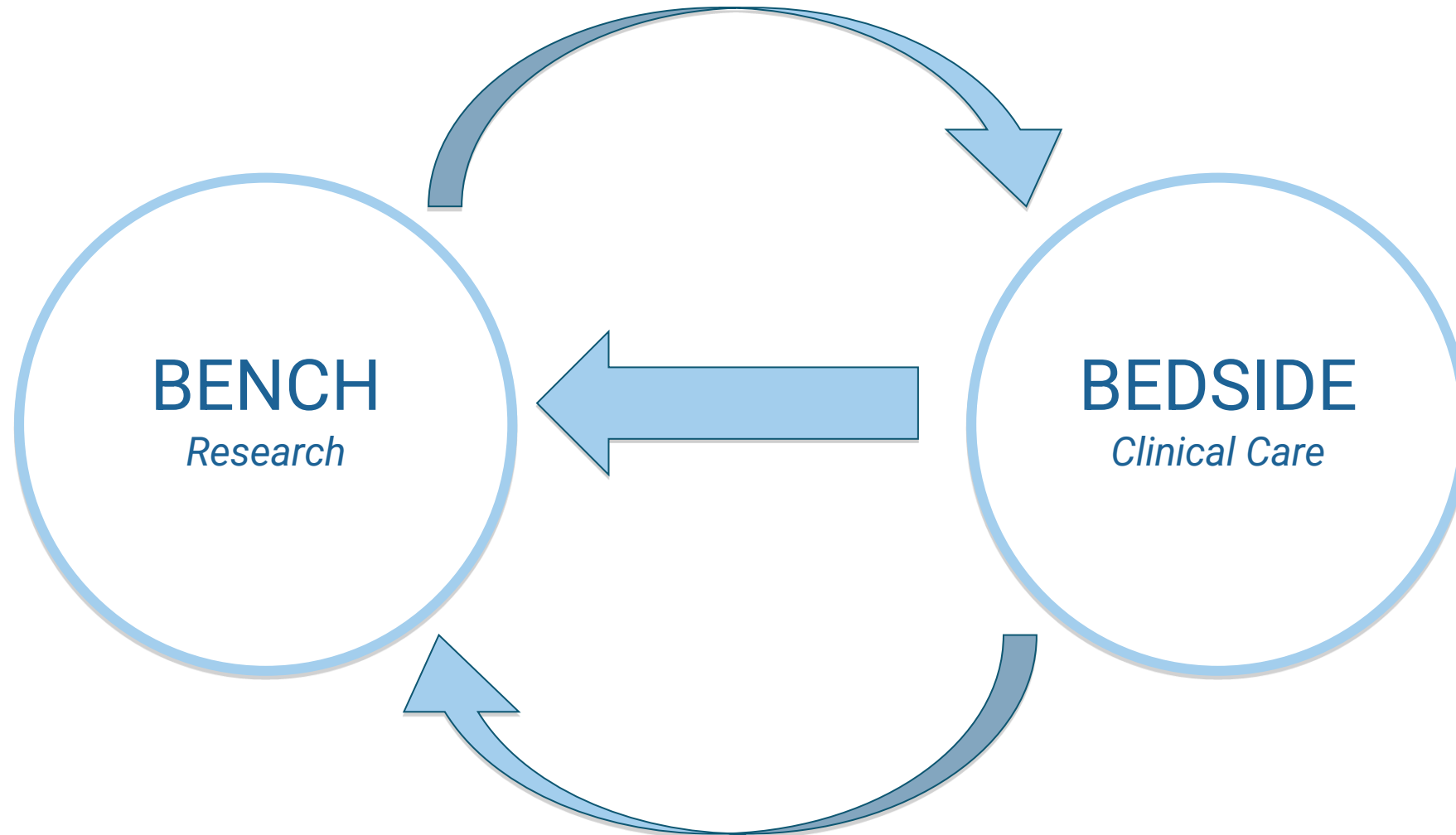
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- PSK has received research/grant support from Sanofi Genzyme and Amicus Therapeutics.
- PSK has received consulting fees and honoraria from Sanofi Genzyme, Amicus Therapeutics, Maze Moderna, Ultragenyx and Asklepios Biopharmaceutical, Inc. (AskBio).
- PSK is a member of the Pompe and Gaucher Disease Registry Advisory Board for Sanofi Genzyme, Amicus Therapeutics, and Baebies.
- PSK has Equity options and serves as a Consultant for Kriya Therapeutics

# Integration of patient care and research

## *Multidirectional flow*

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# RARE DISEASES ARE NOT RARE

## RARE DISEASE

Any disease affecting fewer than 5 in 10,000 people in Europe or fewer 200,000 people in the United States

About

**7,000**

rare diseases are known

think  
**RARE DISEASES**  
research

Around 1.4% of newborn children are affected by one of these diseases.



Many rare diseases result in premature deaths of infants and young children.

RARE DISEASES CURRENTLY AFFECT 5% OF THE WORLDWIDE POPULATION



Most of RARE DISEASES lead to **permanent disability**

**80%**

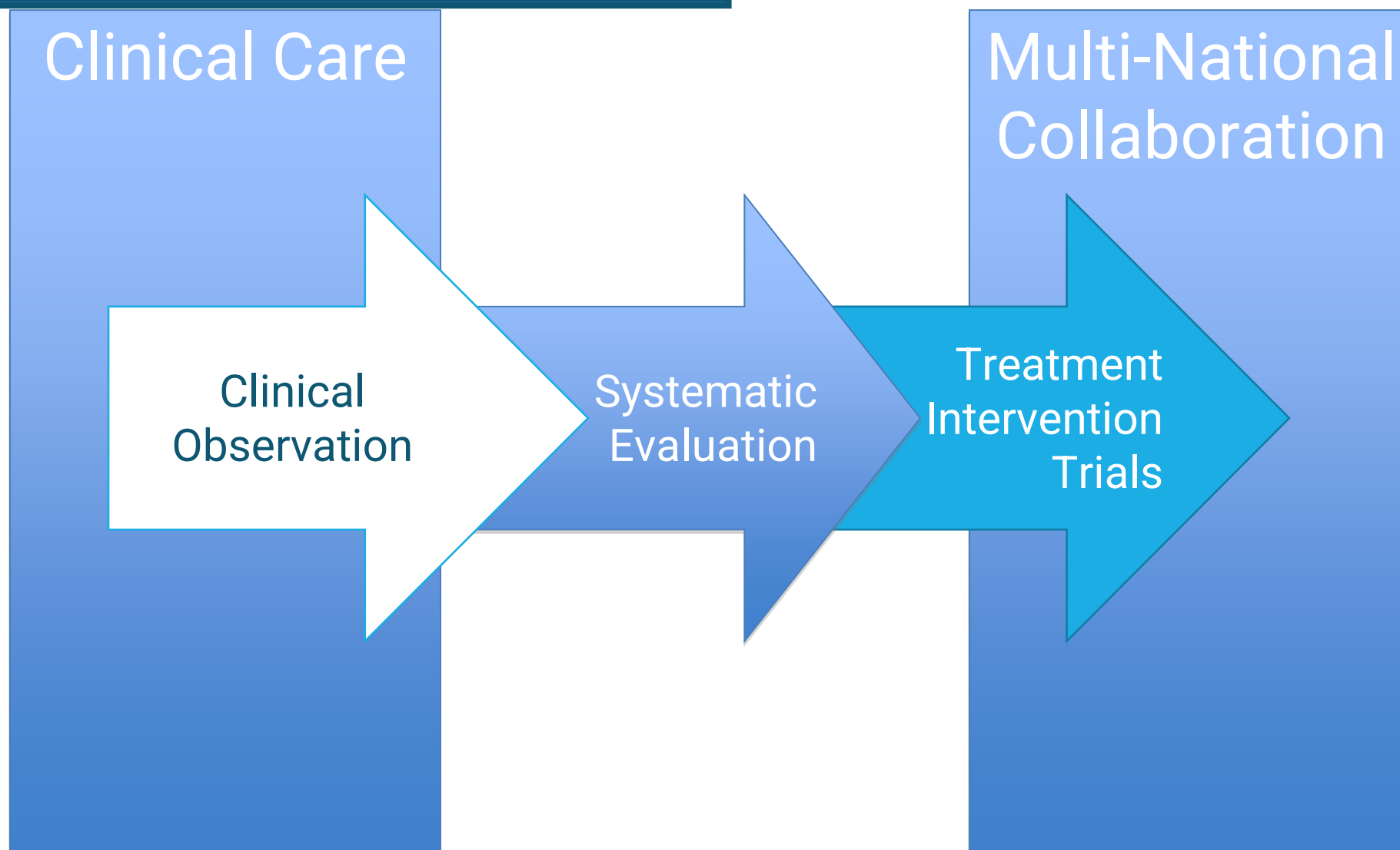
of rare diseases are genetic, and therefore, chronic

**MORE THAN 90%**

of rare diseases are without an FDA-approved treatment

ALL **PEDIATRIC CANCERS** ARE RARE

# Discovery to clinical practice

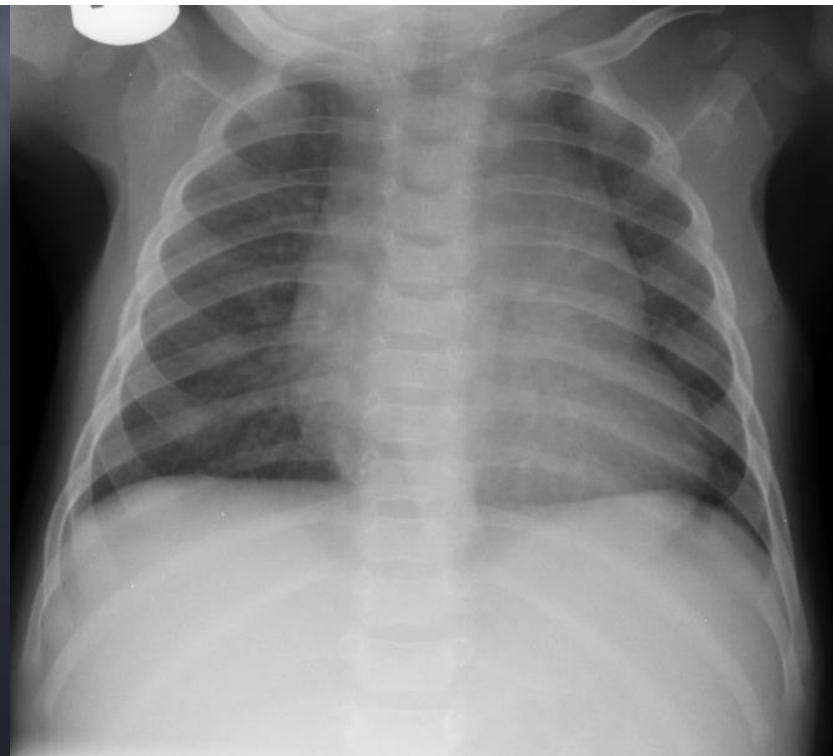


# Pompe disease and the enzyme replacement therapy revolution

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**Chest X-ray**  
Baby affected by Pompe disease

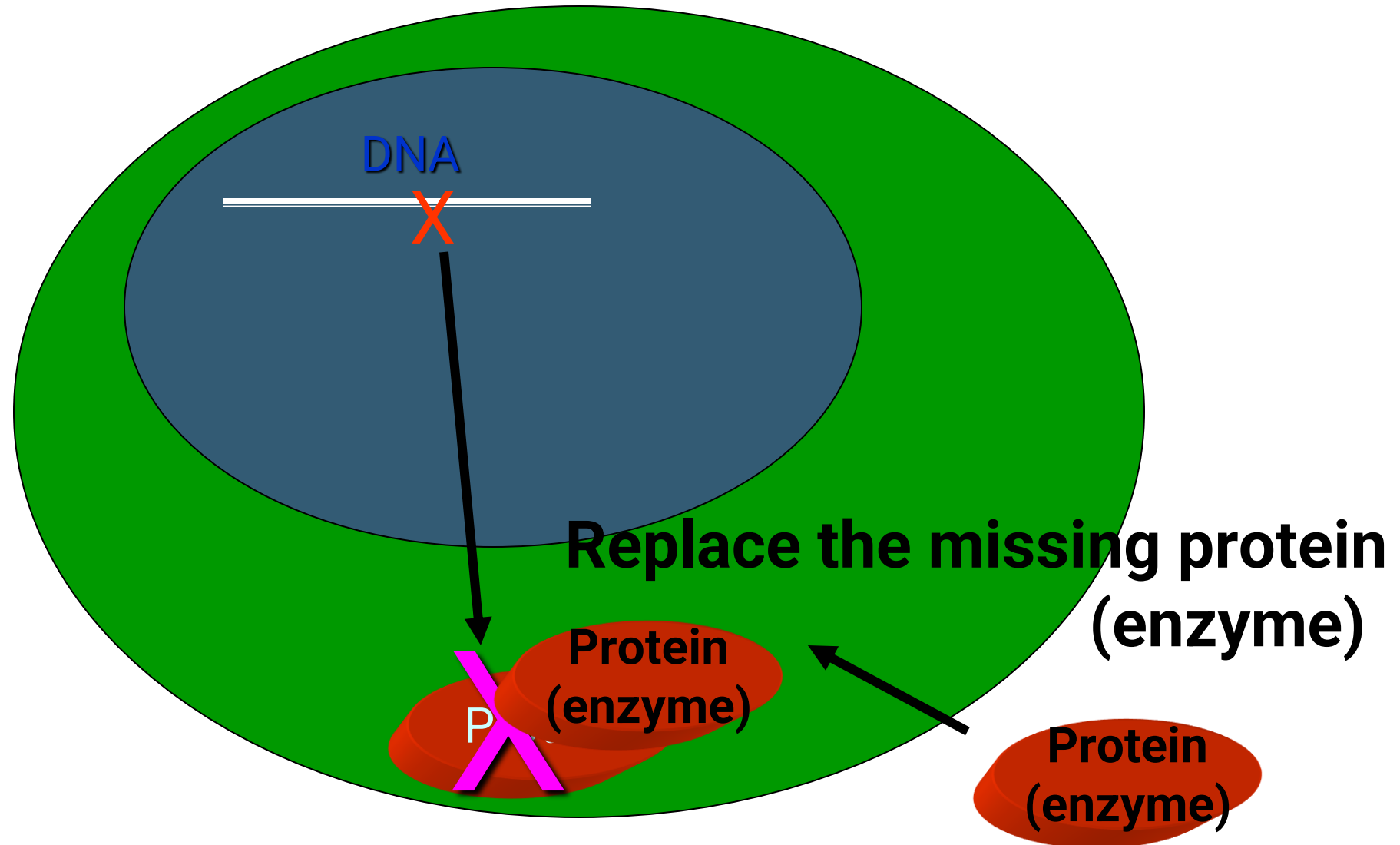


**Chest X-ray**  
Normal baby

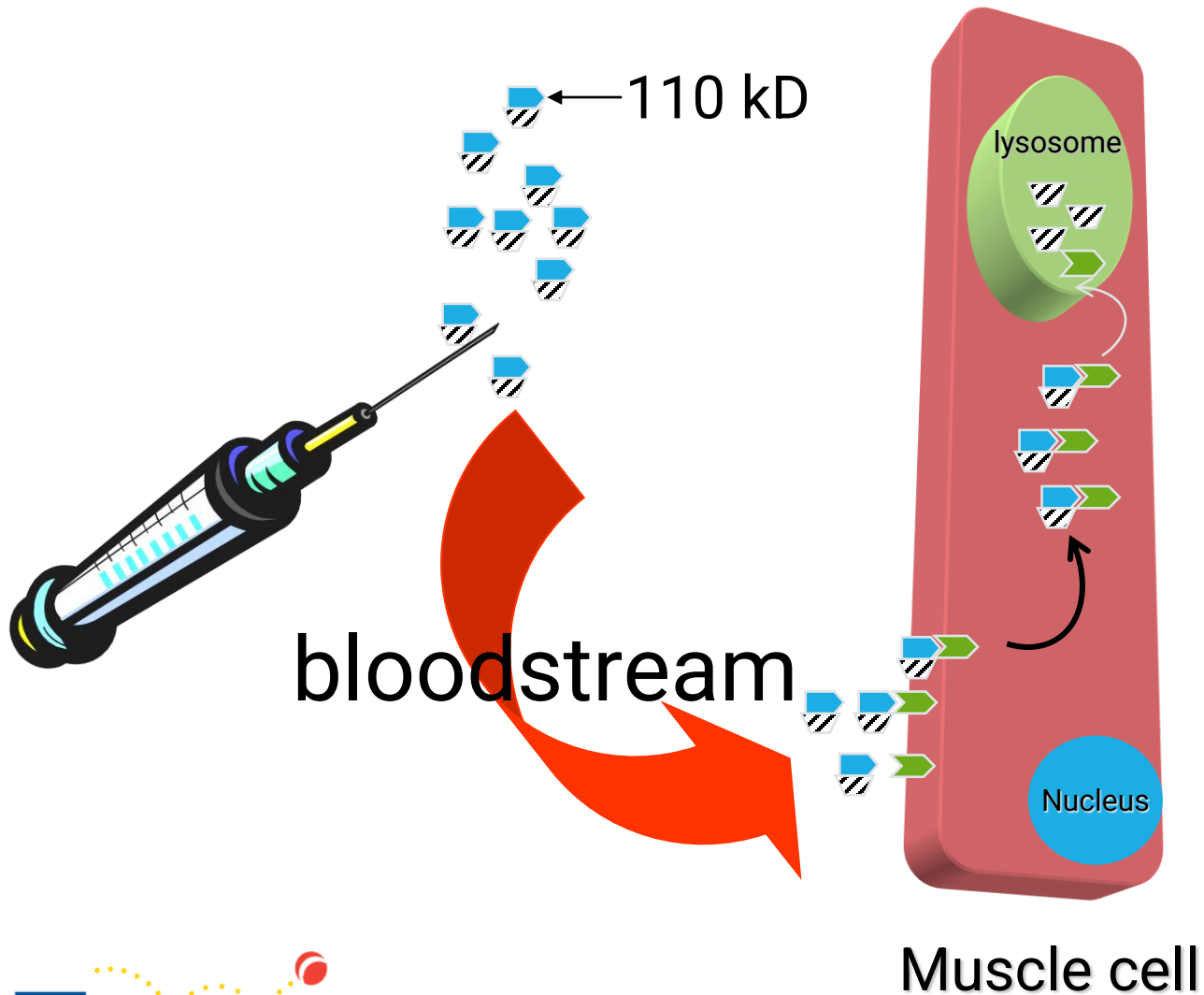
# Baby Carmen

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# Mutations in the gene (DNA) result in defective or no enzyme

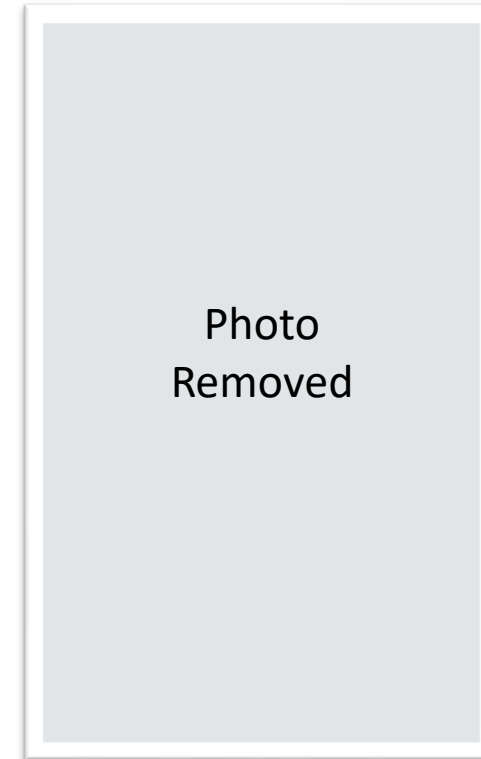


# Intravenous injection of recombinant enzyme (human GAA) will correct enzyme deficiency in Pompe patients

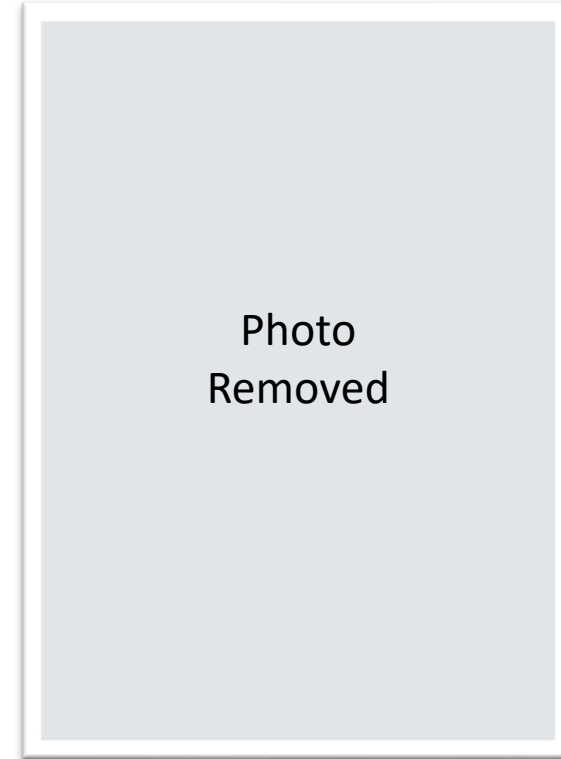


## Brothers with and without treatment

Baby R at 9 months



Baby J at 9 months



# Babies lead the way for FDA approval of enzyme replacement therapy in 2006

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# Newborn screening – a way to ensure a healthy start for our babies

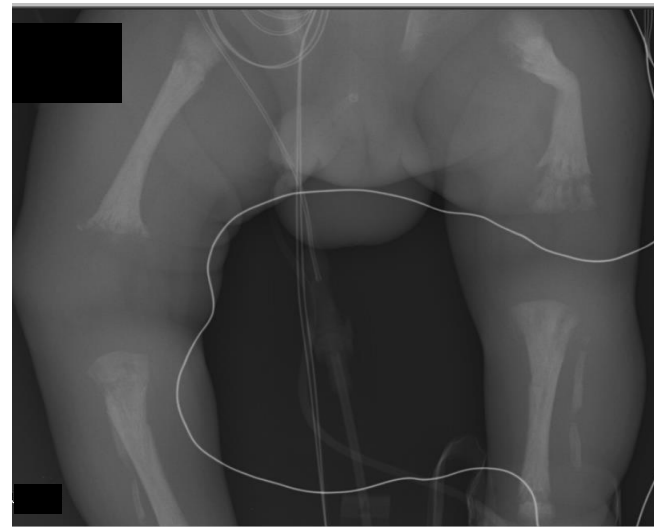
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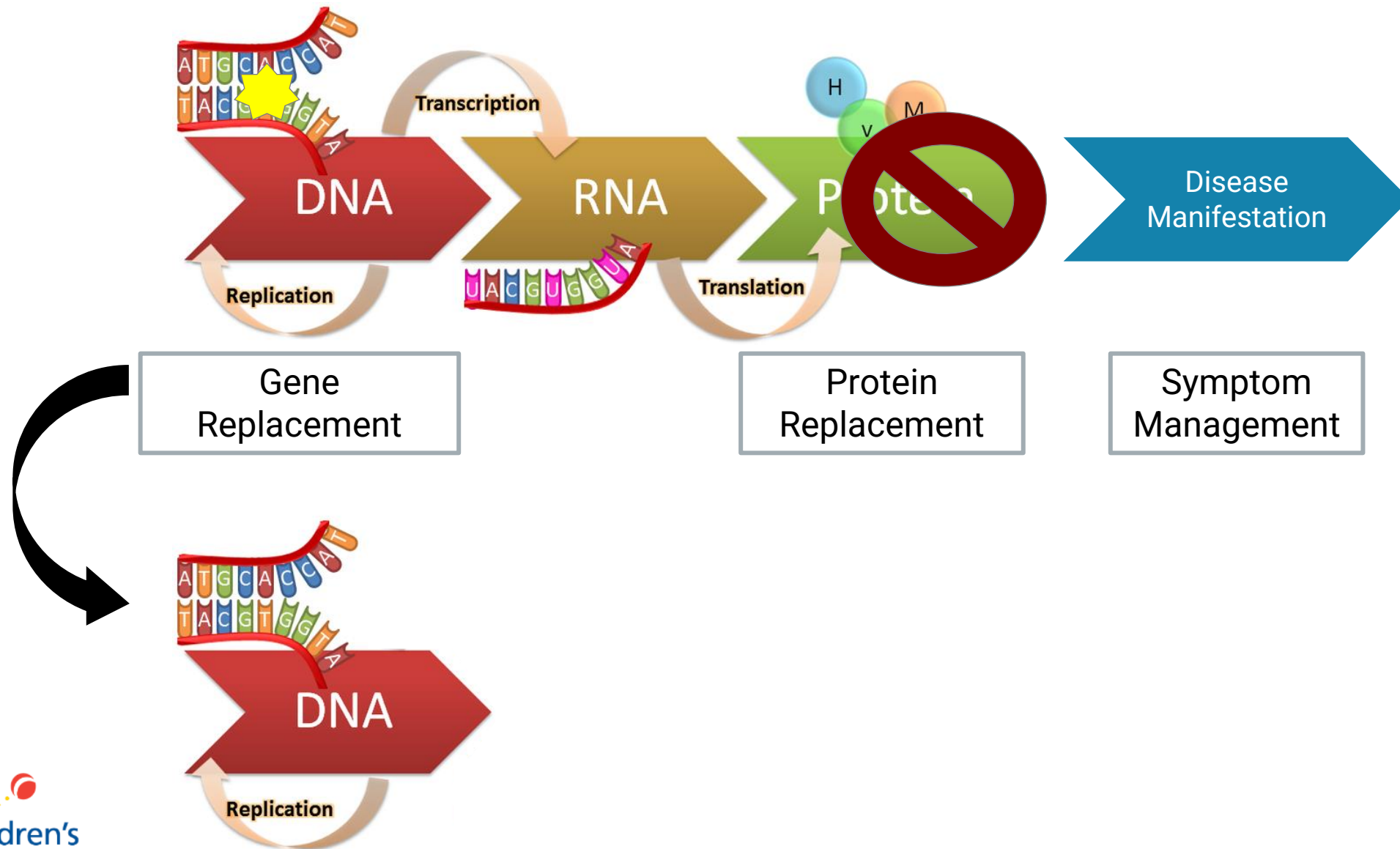




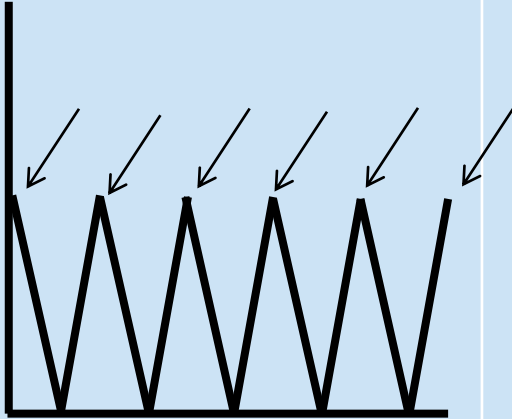
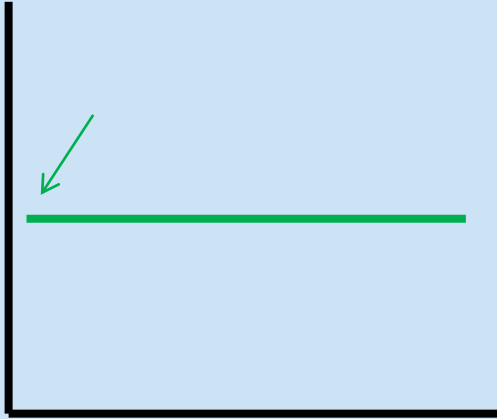
# Hypophosphatasia



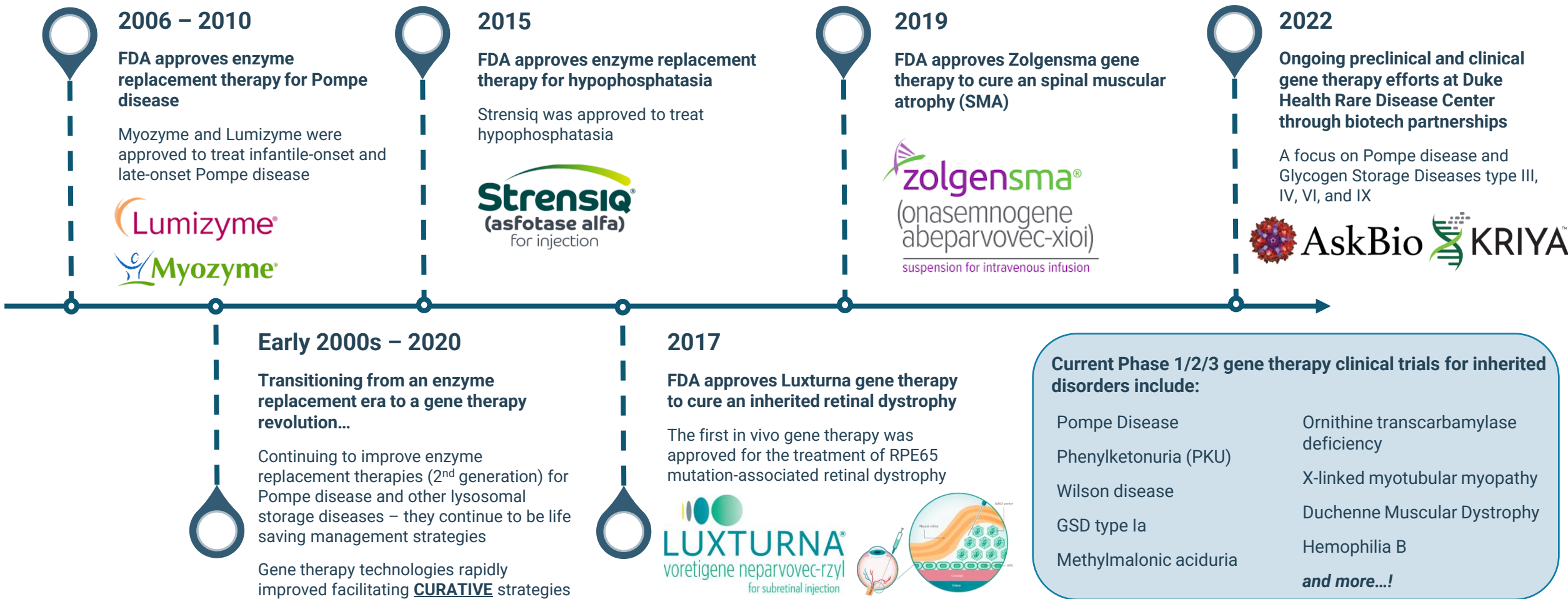
# From management to a cure



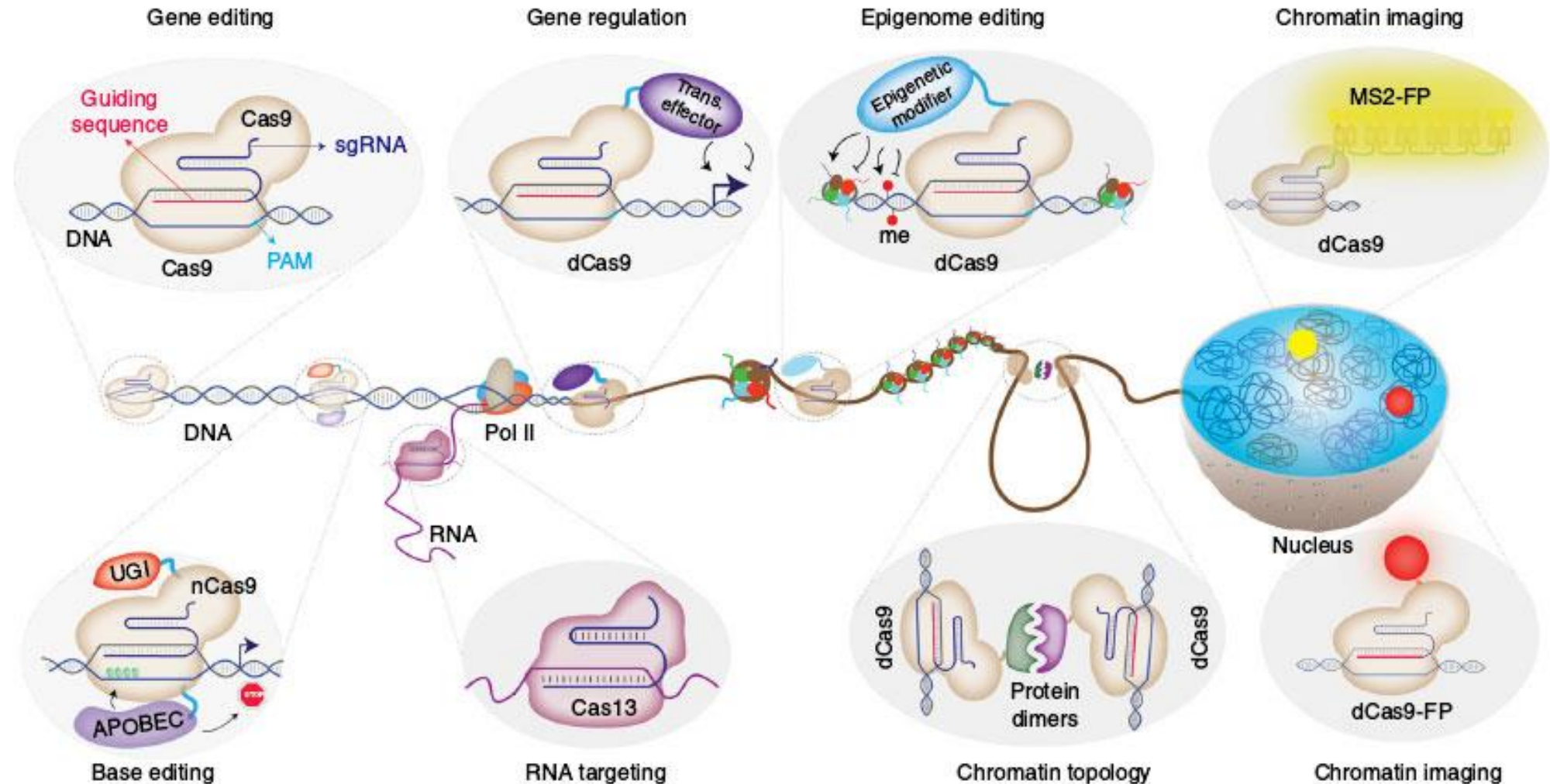
# Comparison of ERT and Gene Therapy: The concept

	ERT	AAV2/8LSPhGAA
Stability	Short half-life in blood	Continuous GAA in bloodstream
GAA delivery to muscle	Lack of uptake in skeletal muscle	Increased delivery to muscle
Immune Responses	High titer antibody response	Immune tolerance induction
Population	Some patients fail to respond	Larger patient population
Efficacy	Partial	More complete correction
Mortality	Yes	Decreased
Administration	Every 2 weeks 	Single dose 

# Gene therapy research is rapidly advancing



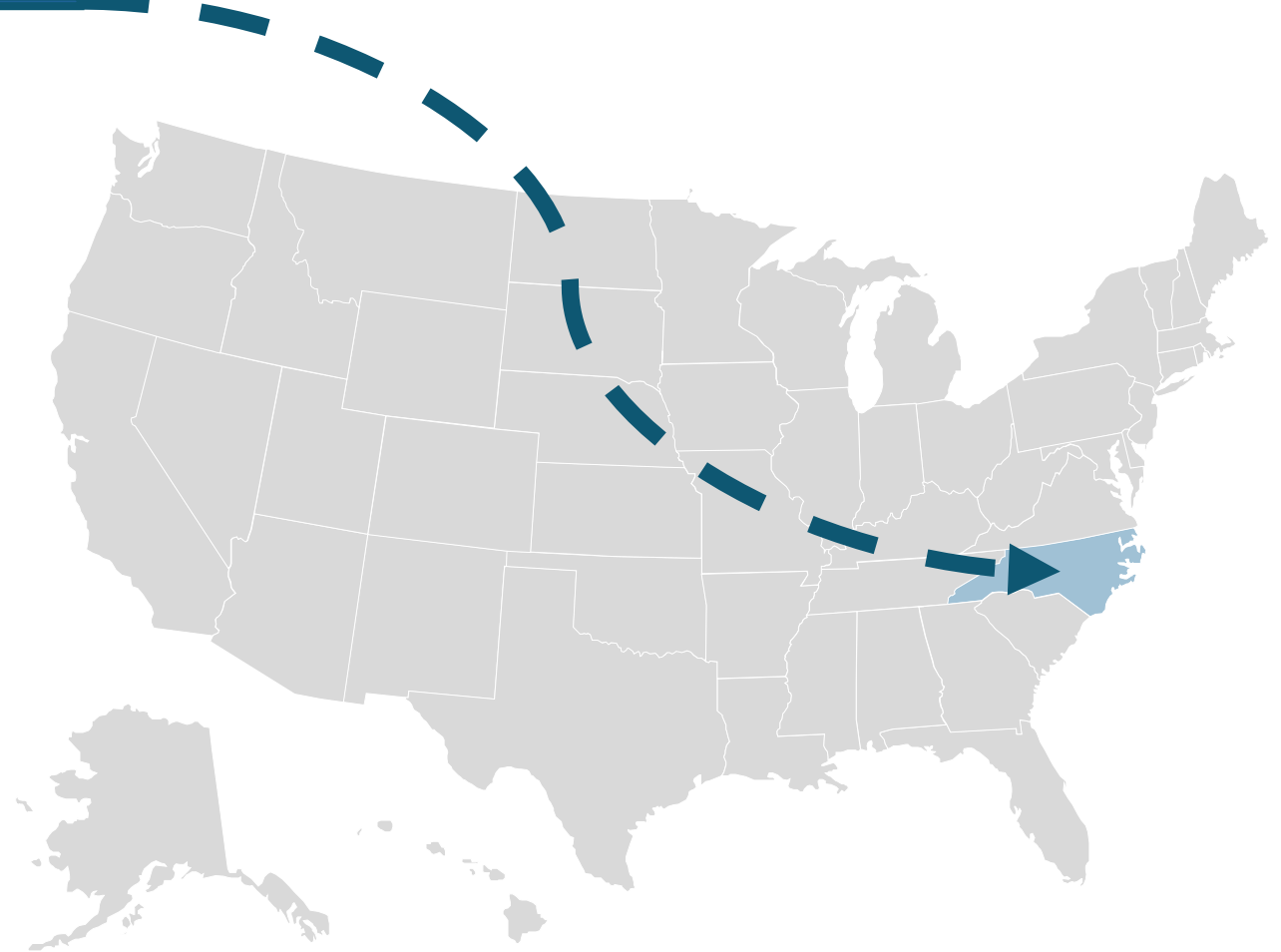
# Future Gene Therapy – Gene/RNA Editing - CRISPR





# An ongoing influx of patients coming to North Carolina for care and treatment

- Duke University and other allied rare disease programs are continuing to expand their gene therapy efforts
- More and more patients from around the world and the US are relocating to North Carolina for care
- Newborn screening is leading to increased diagnoses, allowing earlier access to care and improved patient outcomes



# Dedication to those we have lost

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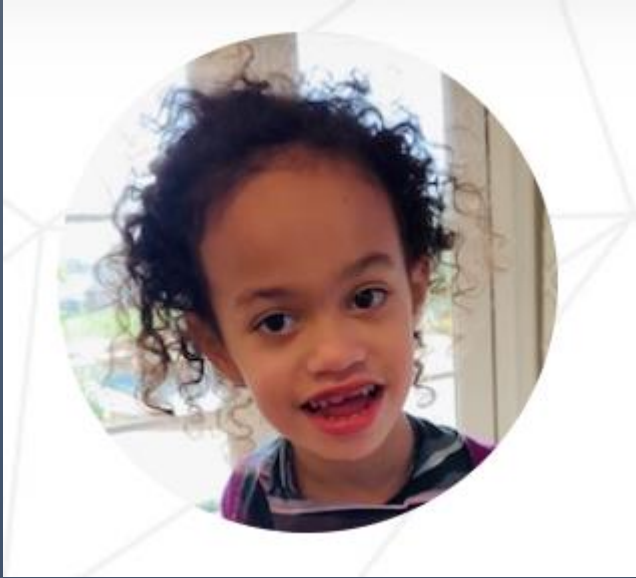
The path to hope begins with a diagnosis

Vandana Shashi, MBBS, MD  
Division of Medical Genetics  
Department of Pediatrics



# The Problem of Rare Diseases

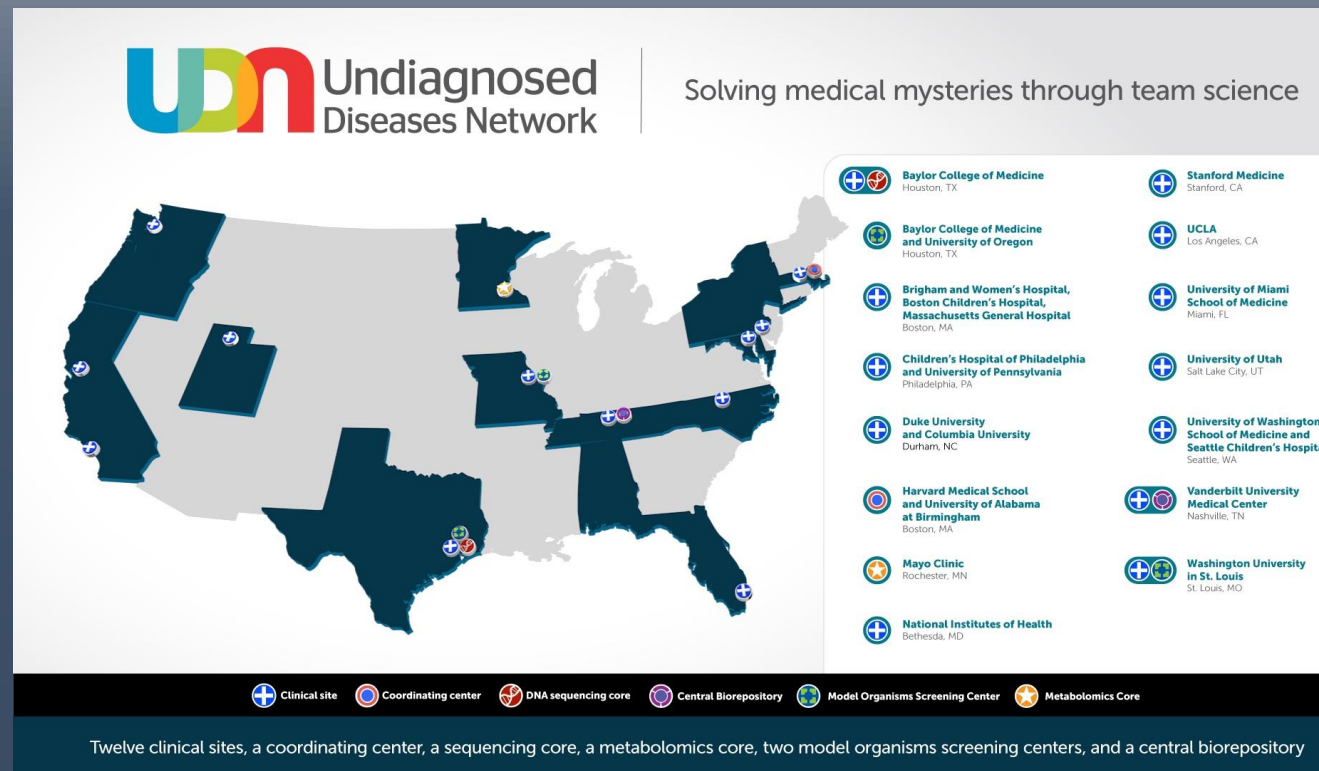
- Individually rare, collectively common
- About 7000 rare disorders- affect 6-8% of the US population: >500,000 affected in NC
- Exert personal and familial psychosocial and financial impact, and societal toll
- Difficult to diagnose
  - ~80% are genetic
  - Even with technological advances such as exome sequencing 60-75% remain undiagnosed



The Undiagnosed Diseases Network  
*Solving Medical Mysteries through Team Science*



# Background



- The Undiagnosed Diseases Network (UDN) created by the National Institutes of Health Common Fund in 2014
- Expanded in 2018: 12 clinical sites
  - Duke is the only clinical site in NC

# UDN Objectives



**Diagnose** patients for whom all available clinical testing has failed (they mostly have rare/ultra-rare diseases)



Facilitate **research** into causes of undiagnosed diseases



Create an **integrated** and **collaborative** research community to improve patient management

# UDN evaluations

Coordinated clinical evaluation by multiple specialists completed in 5 days

Tailored evaluations with standardized data collection for network sharing

Genomic sequencing: clinical lab and research reanalysis of sequence data  
(~80% of undiagnosed diseases are rare or ultra-rare genetic disorders)

Incorporation of cutting-edge tools including RNA sequencing, model organisms, metabolomics

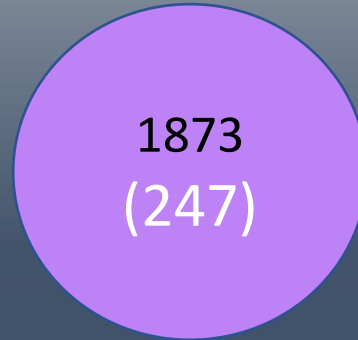
# Key Metrics of Network and at Duke site



Applications  
received



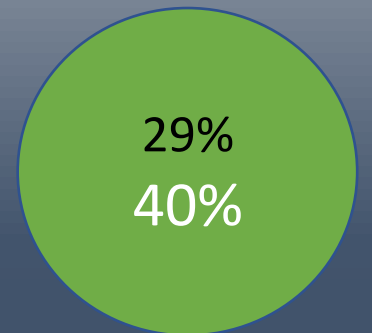
Patients  
Accepted



Evaluations  
Completed



Number of  
Diagnoses



Diagnosis rate

Duke site's data are in parentheses and white

\*18 new disease gene  
discoveries from the Duke site

# Impact of the UDN

## Patients

Diagnosis, new disease gene discoveries  
Treatment changes (even without a diagnosis)

- New medications
- Clinical trials
- Screening for complications
- Membership in foundations, support groups, advocacy

The psychological relief of getting a diagnosis cannot be overstated

## Medical/Scientific community

Continued innovation on diagnostic approaches to rare disease

- No patient is ever “closed” in the UDN

UDN best practices scalable

- Effective yet cost-efficient

Partnerships with biotech

- Disease mechanisms
- Innovative treatments

# Impact of the UDN in NC

The UDN offers the best chance for diagnosis for NC patients who remain undiagnosed by standard methods (including exome sequencing)

UDN best practices can save costs while maximizing diagnoses

Scaling of UDN will benefit large numbers of NC patients and increase access in underserved areas

This can improve the lives of North Carolinians

UDN data can drive scientific innovations with biotech partnerships in NC



# North Carolina Life Sciences Caucus

June 28, 2022

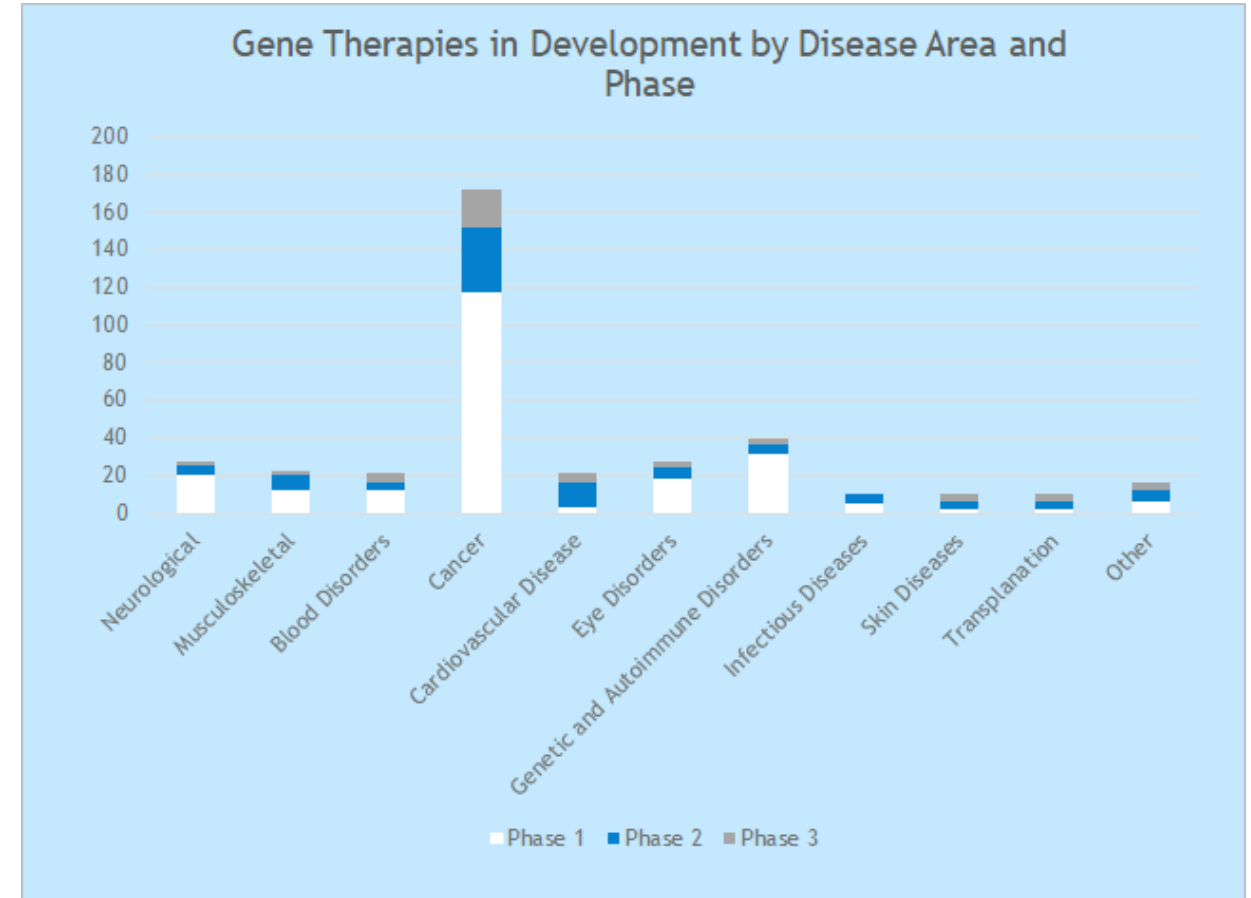
# Duke-Margolis Disclaimers

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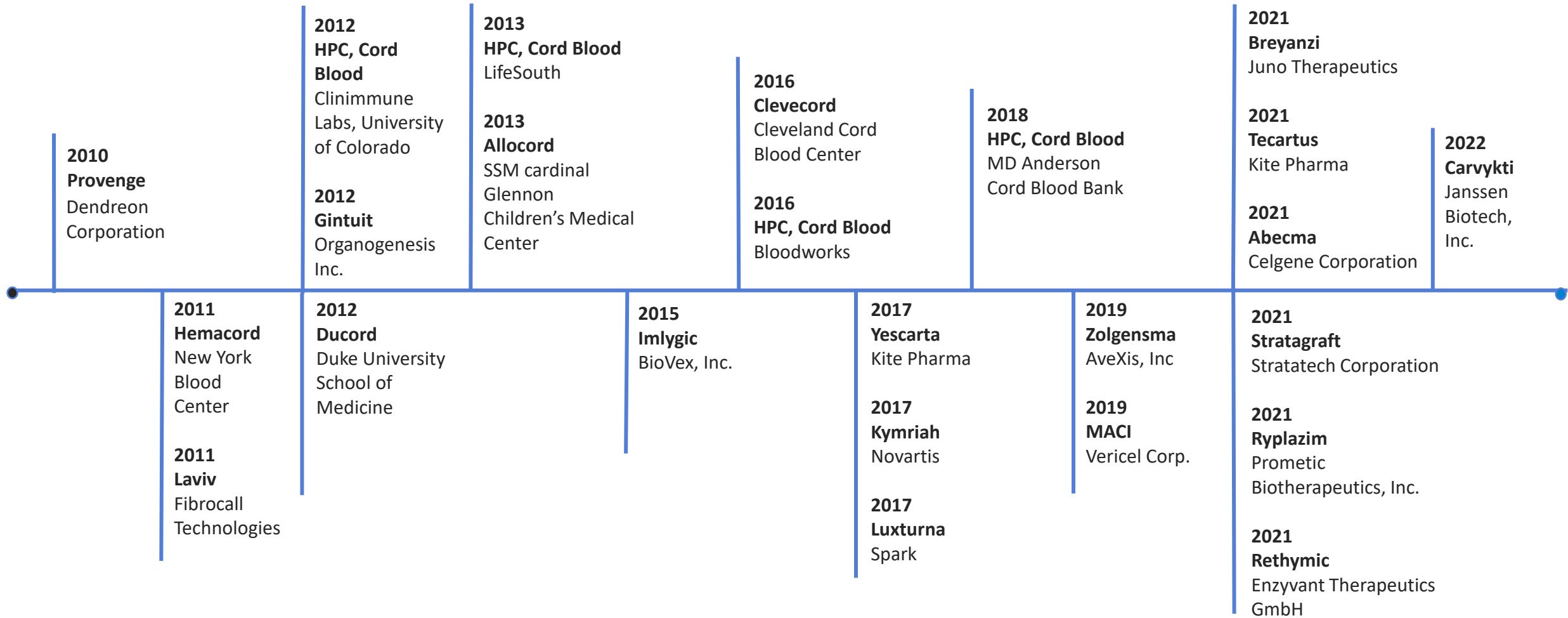
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# Landscape of the cell and gene therapy market

- **There are roughly 600 drugs in the pipeline.**
  - Of those 600 products, around 80 are in Phase 3 of development
- **Drugs likely to enter the market soon address:**
  - Severe/rare genetic diseases (e.g., SCID), Neurological Disorders (e.g., Alzheimer's), Retinal Diseases and Disorders (e.g., LHON)
  - Oncology (a predominant number of drugs are still in Phase 1 or 2), Blood and Immunological disorders (e.g., hemophilia)



# FDA approvals of cell and gene therapies



# Costs for gene and cell therapy products on the market today

- Cell and gene therapies offer potential cures for previously incurable diseases, but also carry extraordinarily high price tags.
- In addition to the high cost of the drug itself, these therapies are complex to administer and often require extensive care coordination before, during, and after administration.
- These treatments are administered primarily in hospital settings, which drives additional costs.

DRUG NAME	MANUFACTURER	INDICATION	COST
<b>Luxturna</b> (voretigene neparvovec-rzyl)	Spark	Inherited retinal disease	\$850,000/ for both eyes
<b>Kymriah</b> (tisagenlecleucel)	Novartis	Acute lymphocytic leukemia Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma	\$475,000 \$373,000
<b>Yescarta</b> (axicabtagene ciloleucel)	Kite	Large B-cell lymphoma and Follicular lymphoma	\$373,000
<b>Zolgensma</b> (onasemnogene abeparvovec-xioi)	AveXis	Spinal muscular atrophy	\$2.125 million
<b>Tecartus</b> (brexucabtagene autoleucel)	Kite	Mantle cell lymphoma	\$373,000
<b>Breyanzi</b> (lisocabtagene maraleucel)	BMS	Large B-cell lymphoma	\$410,300
<b>Abecma</b> (idecabtagene vicleucel)	BMS and bluebird bio	Multiple myeloma	\$419,500

# Payment challenges for cell and gene therapies

- **Budgetary impact of high upfront costs**
  - Current payment system in the US was designed to reimburse for chronic conditions, which are administered and paid for over time in periodic increments
  - Cell and gene therapies are typically administered one time and accrue benefits over time
  - Payers may not be able to absorb the high one-time cost and providers may not want to assume the reimbursement risk if rates don't cover total costs
- **Uncertainty regarding real-world clinical efficacy and long-term durability of the therapeutic benefit**
  - Evidence used for regulatory approval may have limited information on the long-term outcomes and durability associated with the treatment
  - Current treatments have been studied in relatively small numbers of patients over a short period of time
  - Payers may pose coverage restrictions when there is uncertainty of impact in different types of patients and as combination therapies
- **Uncertainty in recouping investment with multiple payers**
  - Cost savings from cell and gene therapies will likely be accrued downstream from the initial treatment
  - It is likely that a patient will switch health plans, so these savings may not accrue to the payer that assumed the original treatment cost, creating an additional hurdle for payers to cover and reimburse these therapies

# Medicare payment policies for cell and gene therapy products

- In January 2016, CMS agreed to cover hematopoietic stem cell transplant to treat multiple myeloma, myelofibrosis, and sickle cell disease through the CED mechanism
  - Reimbursement rate is below the procedure's true cost
- CMS finalized a new MS-DRG 018 for FY 2021 for hospital inpatient treatments using CAR T-cell products meant to increase payment predictability for these therapies
  - Proposed base payment for CAR-T cases in FY 2023 would increase from \$246,955 (FY 2022) to \$248,806
  - Overall financial impact will vary by hospital, but reimbursement rate still sometimes fails to cover total hospital costs, affecting provider uptake and patient access
  - Concerns over how CMS will address an inpatient therapy that maps to DRG 018 but has significantly different costs
- Products in pipeline are intended for much broader patient populations than those currently available, potentially shifting industry away from heavy inpatient focus to more outpatient treatment
  - Shifting volume toward outpatient use may result in changes to the outpatient payment system

# Commercial payer policies for cell and gene therapy products

- Commercial payers cover cell and gene therapies on a case by case basis
  - If they decide to cover the therapy, reimbursement rates will be similar to which Medicare pays for these treatments
- Commercial payers have greater flexibility to enter into **outcome-based agreements**, which align payment to observed outcomes and/or **annuity models** that spread the cost of the therapy out over time
  - Example: Harvard Pilgrim Health Care and Spark entered into an agreement to tie payments for the drug to measure improvement in patients at 30- to 90-day intervals and then again at the 30-month mark.
- Commercial payers have utilized **financing models** to manage spending, including risk pooling, stop-loss and reinsurance, supplier credit, and patient assistance subsidy
  - One example is Cigna's Embarc Benefit Protection platform, which carves out coverage for cell and gene therapies
    - Employers that adopt platform pay a per member, per month fee to participate
    - Program is designed to alleviate high cost-sharing for patients and prevent shock claims for employers



# Medicaid policies for cell and gene therapy products

- State Medicaid programs face particularly acute challenges with coverage of high-cost treatments given requirements to cover products and limited tools for mitigating budgetary impacts
- Like private payers, Medicaid programs may engage in outcome-based agreements, also called value-based purchasing arrangements
  - Example Massachusetts Medicaid and AveXis entered into an outcome-based arrangement for Zolgensma, which will include evaluations and refunds over the course of five years based on the drug's effectiveness over time in treated patients
- Medicaid value-based purchasing arrangements for medical products are still relatively new and state experience with these arrangements is very limited
  - Medicaid organizations are much more engaged in looking for opportunities, in part because there is growing interest from manufacturers to engage in these arrangements
  - However, the extent to which states can carry out successful contracts is dependent on data capabilities that many do not have
- Currently, states have to request additional authorities from CMS to engage in value-based purchasing arrangements
  - A CMS final rule effective in July, 2022 allowing for multiple Medicaid best prices is intended to support payers entering into value-based purchasing negotiations. CMS recently released guidance to states on the final rule and engaging in VBP arrangements

# Patient Voices

- Nickey Hosey, SMA parent and advocate
- Charlene Cowell, MPA, executive director, Hemophilia of North Carolina

# Q&A/Discussion

Life Science Caucus Meeting

June 28, 2022

7:30am

Co-chairs:

Senators Newton and Woodard

Representatives White and Reives

Meeting adjourned

