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Development of Novel Therapies Using Advanced GalNAc-siRNA Technology

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Forward looking statements

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Outline



1. About Silence Therapeutics
2. Case Study: SLN124 and iron overload disorders
3. Technology Innovation at Silence Therapeutics



About Silence Therapeutics

About Silence Therapeutics



Only quoted European RNA interference player

Key Performance Indicators:

- > Net cash position of £43M at 2nd of Jan 2018
- > Market cap: £136.5M*

Headcount:

- > 45 FTE (30 in Berlin, R&D and 15 London, Corporate and R&D)

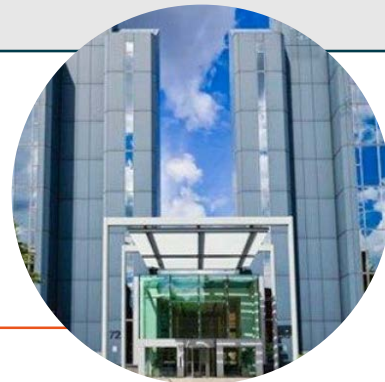
Listing:

- > AIM, London Stock Exchange

* As of 4 February 2018

Our facilities

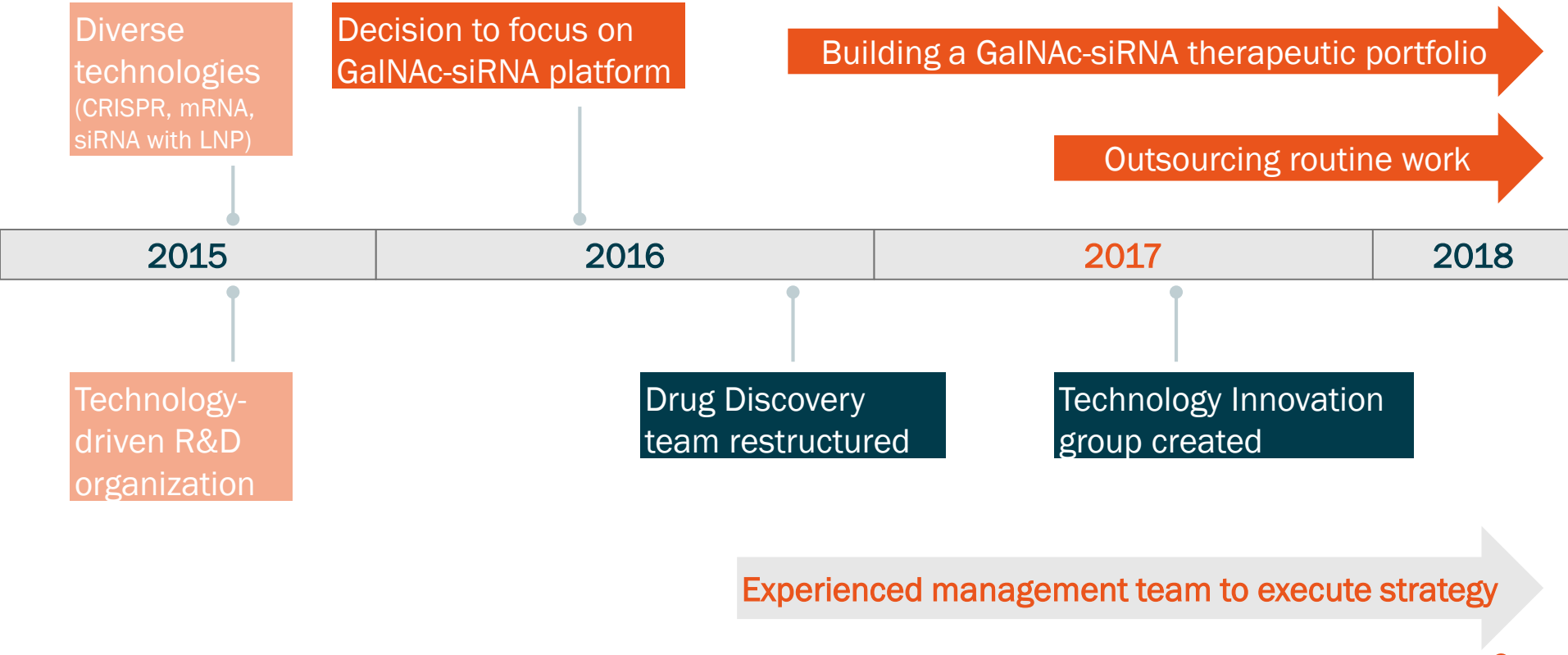
HQ in
London



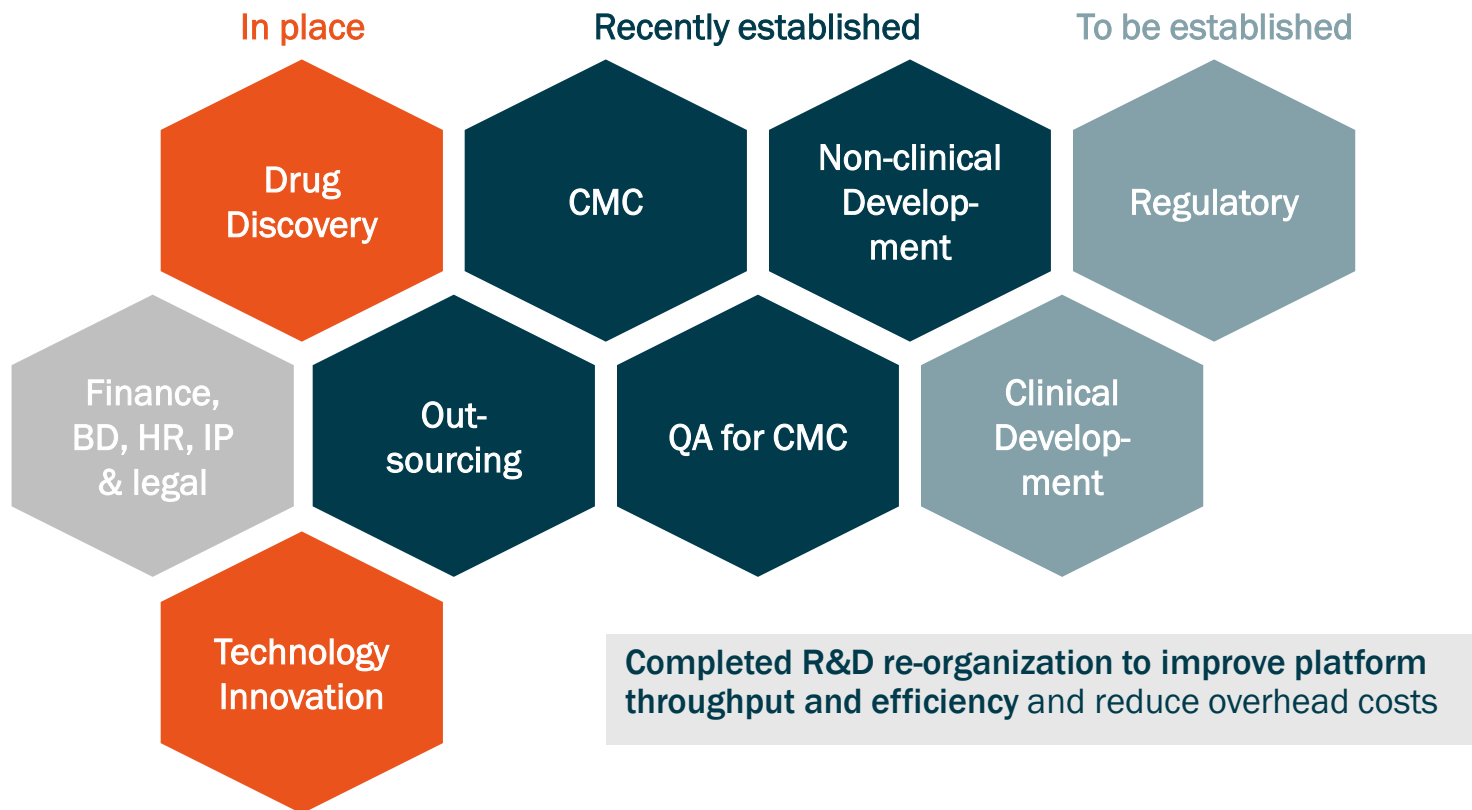
R&D in
Berlin



Building a strong pipeline through the creation of a highly functional R&D organisation



Evolving modular R&D capabilities

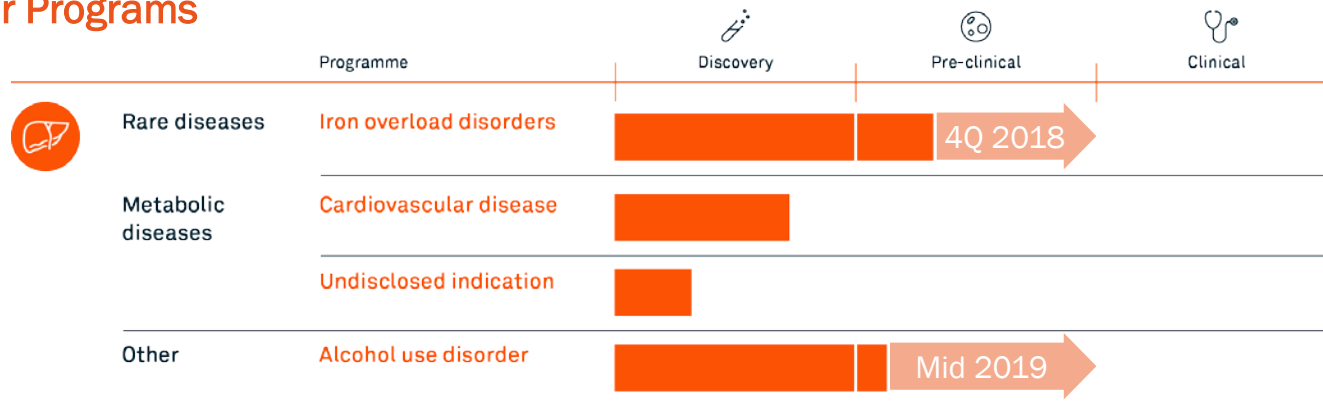


Pipeline

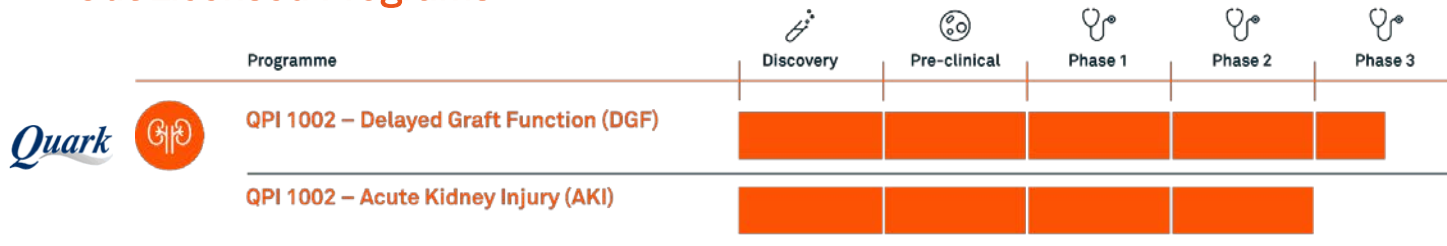


Building a proprietary portfolio, two projects advanced into preclinical development

Our Programs



Out-Licensed Programs



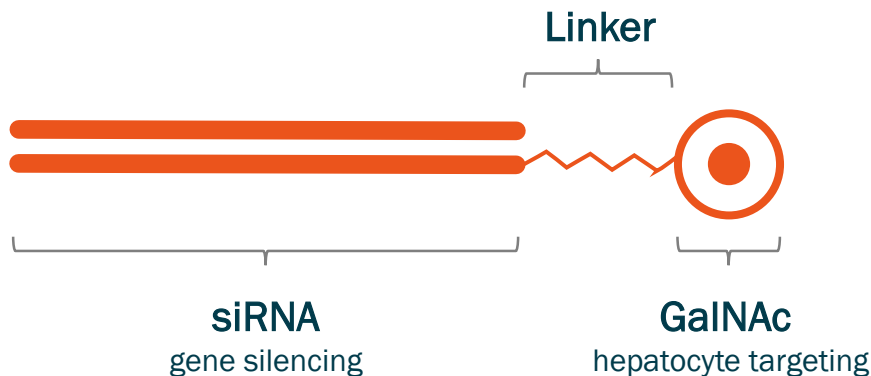
Quark





GalNAc conjugated siRNA technology

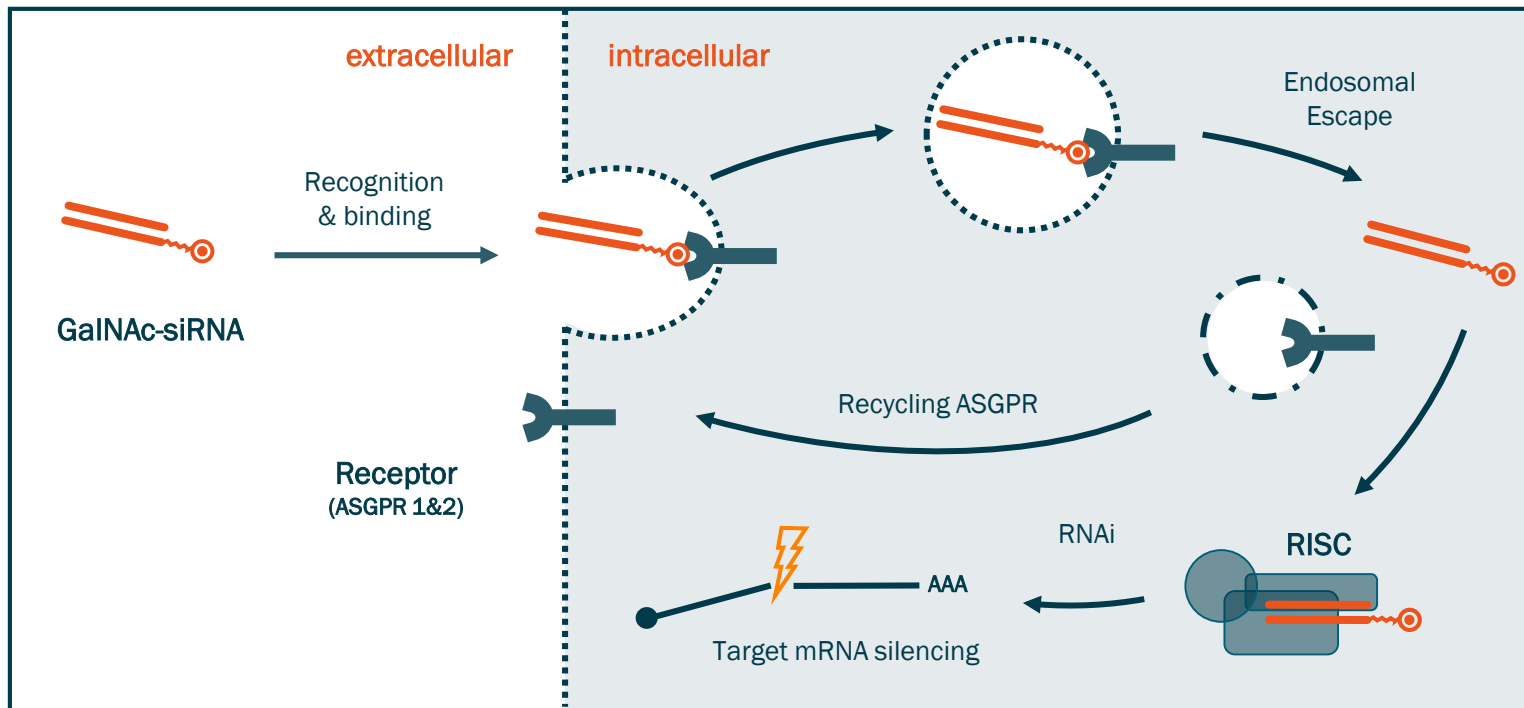
GalNAc-conjugated siRNA



Advantages of GalNAc-siRNA technology

- > GalNAc targets therapeutic siRNA molecules **specifically to hepatocytes**
- > Highly specific by targeting a **single transcript**
- > Patient-friendly via **infrequent subcutaneous administration**
- > Established **clinically validated technology**
- > Generally **well tolerated**, high therapeutic index

Gene silencing with GalNAc-conjugated siRNA in hepatocytes



> Intracellular delivery mediated through receptor mediated endocytosis

- Case study: SLN124 for the treatment of iron overload disorders



Treatment of iron overload disorders

GOAL

- > Provide an effective and safe novel treatment option for patients with iron overload conditions, such as β -Thalassemia

RATIONALE

- > Target a key modulator in iron regulation with a GalNAc-siRNA molecule providing a **highly specific, effective & safe** option through inhibition of a disease relevant target gene expressed in hepatocytes

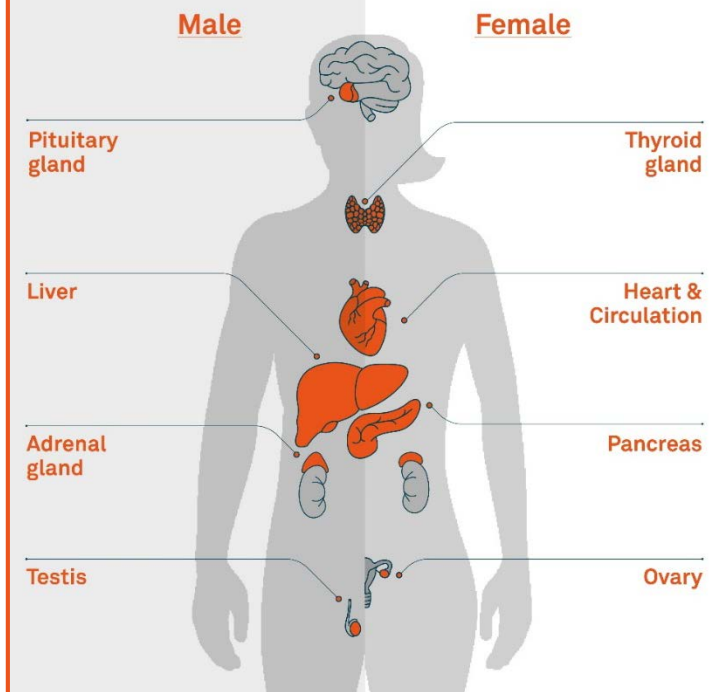
CURRENT STAGE

- > Preclinical development with plans to enter clinical development in Q4/2018

Iron Overload Disorders



Affected organs by iron overload

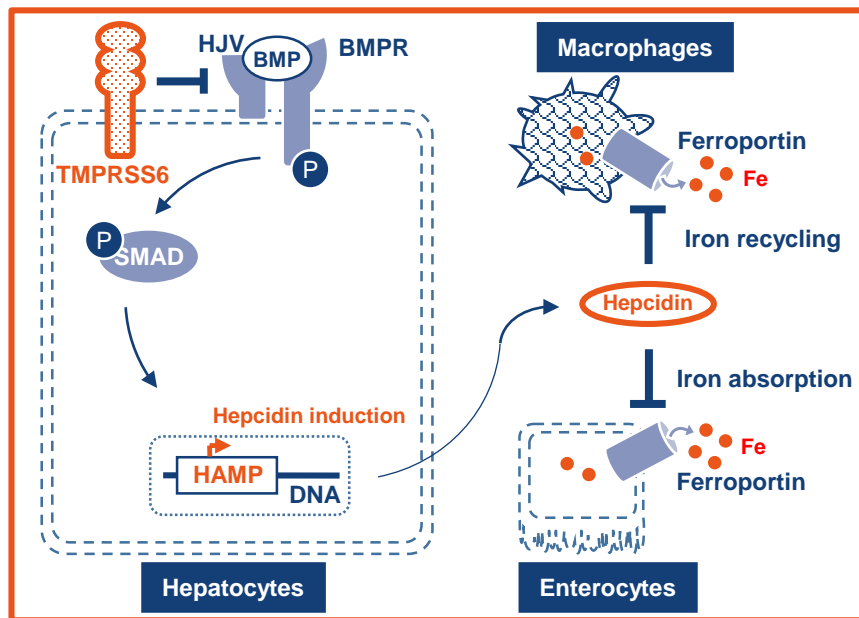


Diseases with iron overload

- > β -Thalassemia
- > Myelodysplastic Syndrome
- > Hereditary Haemochromatosis
- > Aplastic Anaemia
- > Sideroblastic Anaemia

If untreated, iron accumulation in organs leads to severe damage, e.g. in heart, liver & endocrine organs

SLN124 mechanism of action



- > **TMPRSS6** (Transmembrane Protease, Serine 6) is a negative regulator of the BMP/SMAD signalling pathway
- > Inhibition of TMPRSS6 in hepatocytes induces Hepcidin expression
- > Hepcidin reduces absorption of dietary iron and the release of iron from cellular storage, thereby reducing circulatory iron levels
- > The liver is the predominant source of Hepcidin

Silencing
TMPRSS6

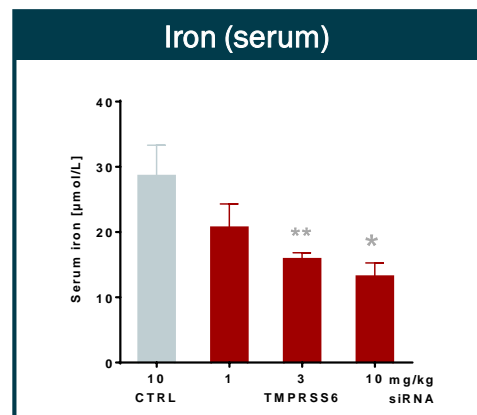
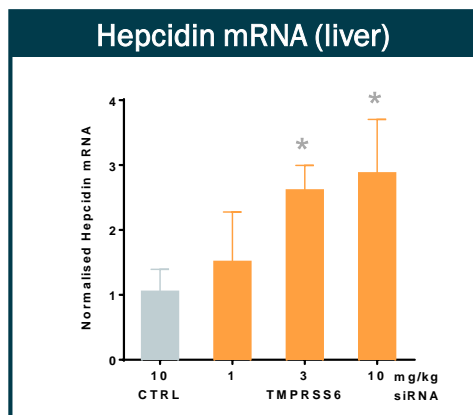
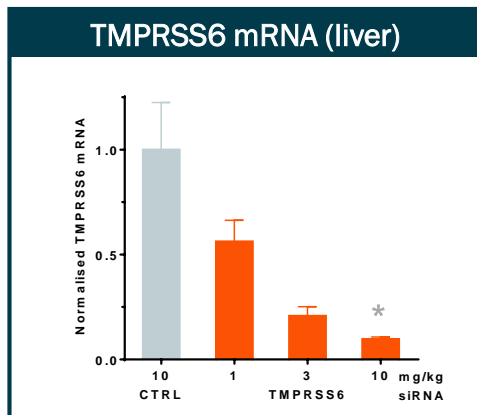
① Increases
Hepcidin levels

② Reduces
iron levels

③ Improves
erythropoiesis

④ Reduces anaemia &
iron overload

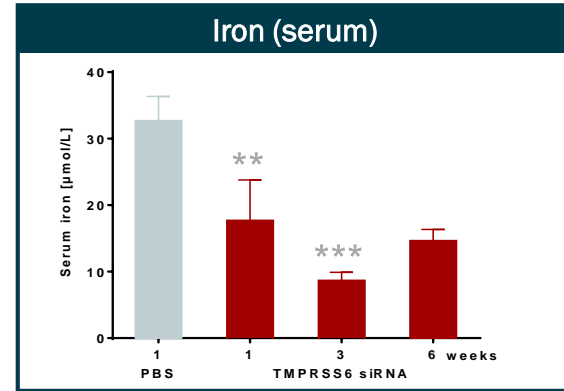
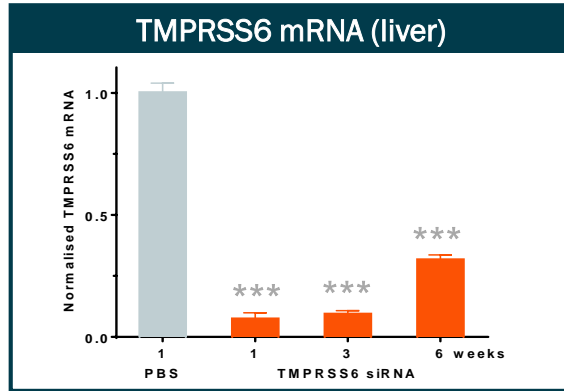
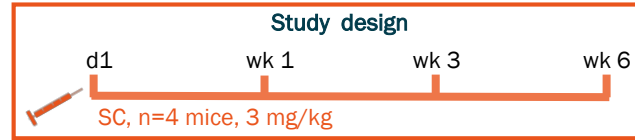
Silencing TMPRSS6 lowers serum iron levels in mice



Kruskal-Wallis test with Dunn's multiple comparisons test against non-targeting control CTRL

- > Single subcutaneous administration reduces TMPRSS6 expression
- > Induction of hepcidin causes reduction of blood iron levels
- > **Proof of mechanism demonstrated**

SLN124 lowers serum iron levels for at least six weeks after single injection in mice



2-way ANOVA multiple comparisons: shown to control CTRL groups (same time point)

- > Long-lasting functional mRNA KD in liver
- > Reduction of serum iron levels for at least 6 weeks
- > Well tolerated with long duration of action in mice

SLN124 - Summary



- > Highly potent, selective and long acting GalNAc-conjugated siRNA
- > Efficacious in lowering blood iron and well tolerated in healthy mice after single subcutaneous injection
- > Demonstrated therapeutic efficacy in clinically relevant animal disease models
- > Currently in preclinical development with plans to enter clinical development in Q4 2018

SLN124 represents a highly valuable therapeutic candidate for patients with iron overload disorders, such as β -Thalassemia



Technology Innovation: making a good thing better



R&D with focus on portfolio and innovation

Technology Innovation

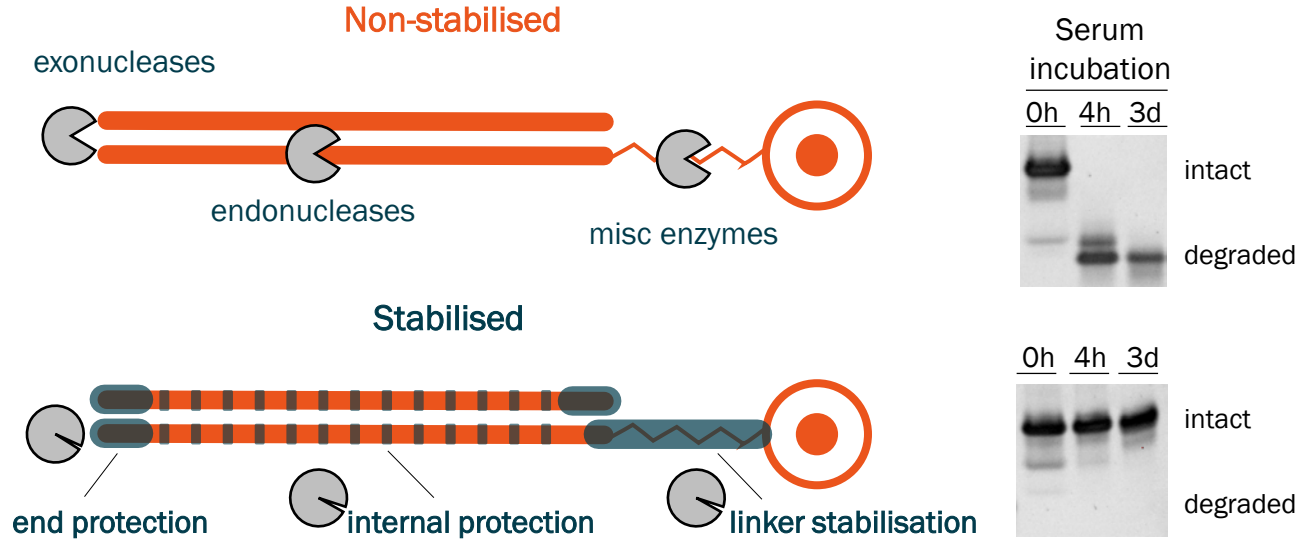


Drug Discovery & Development

- > Improve performance of our GalNAc-siRNA molecules
- > Strengthen and broaden IP portfolio
- > Expand RNAi horizon beyond hepatocytes
- > Apply to therapeutic portfolio upon validation

- > Build a proprietary therapeutic portfolio by applying validated siRNA technologies
- > Partner programs in a strategic manner
- > Add new programs in a risk-diversified manner

Unmodified GalNAc-conjugated siRNA is quickly degraded in biological fluids

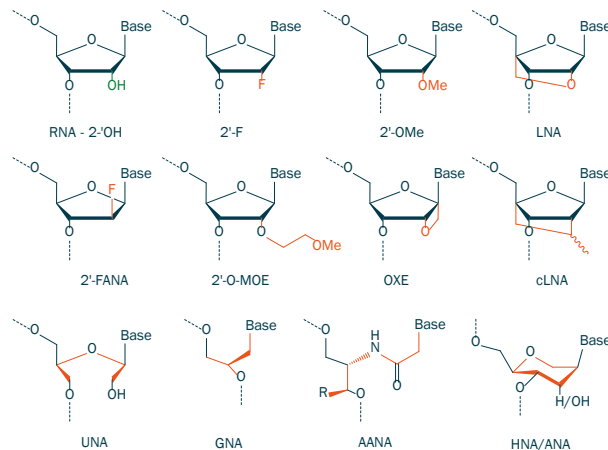


Incorporation of chemically modified nucleotides can protect GalNAc-conjugated siRNA from degradation

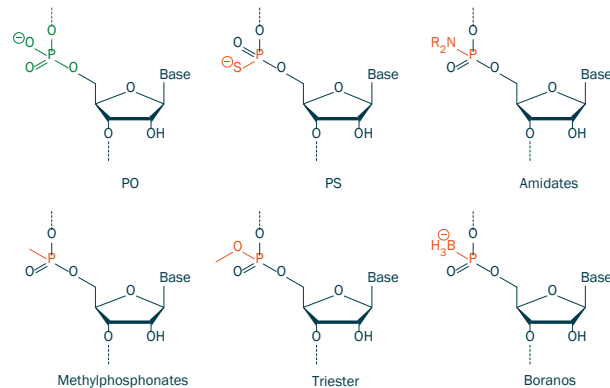
Most “stabilising chemically modified nucleotides” are not naturally occurring in humans



Modified 2'-OH



Modified phosphate



- > May potentially cause non-specific effects and affect silencing activity
- > Our strategy is to minimize the use of non-natural nucleotides while preserving or improving both stability and potency



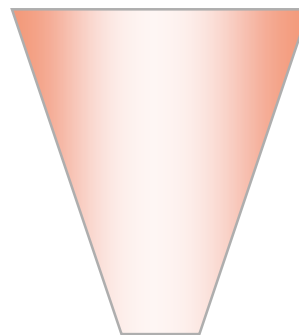
siRNA modifications for endonuclease protection

Minimizing the use of non-natural nucleotides



Hundreds of chemical
modification patterns

~50% non-natural



***In vitro* activity:** without GalNAc,
with various modifications,
patterns, sequences

Serum stability: with or
without GalNAc

Primary hepatocyte activity:
with GalNAc

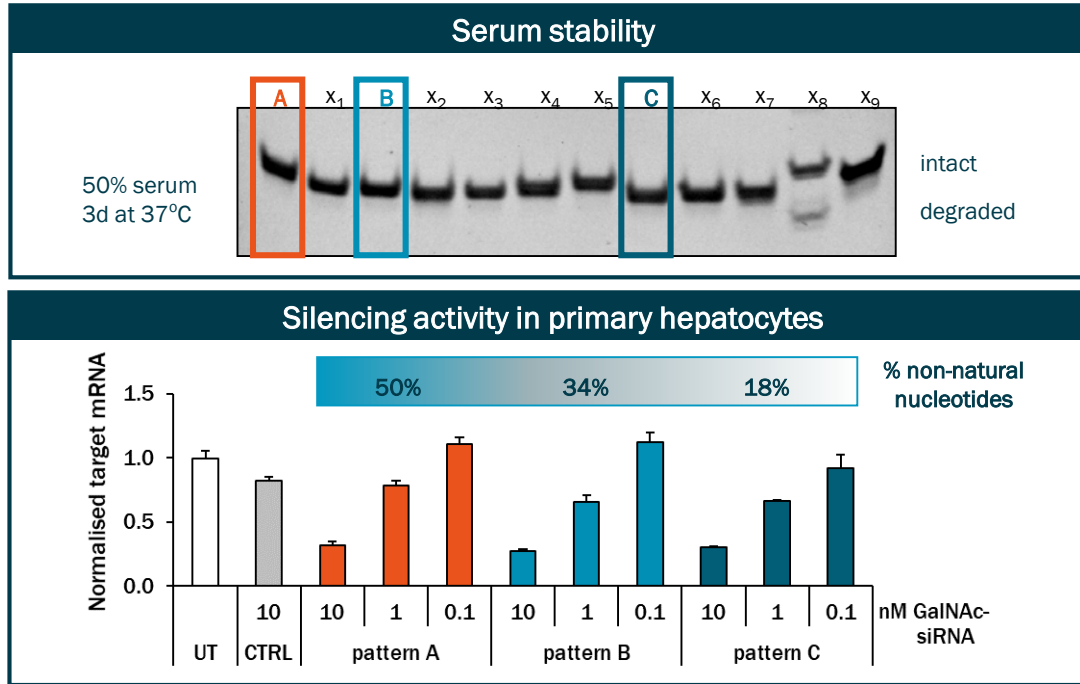
Animal activity:
with GalNAc

Unique chemical
modification patterns

<15% non-natural

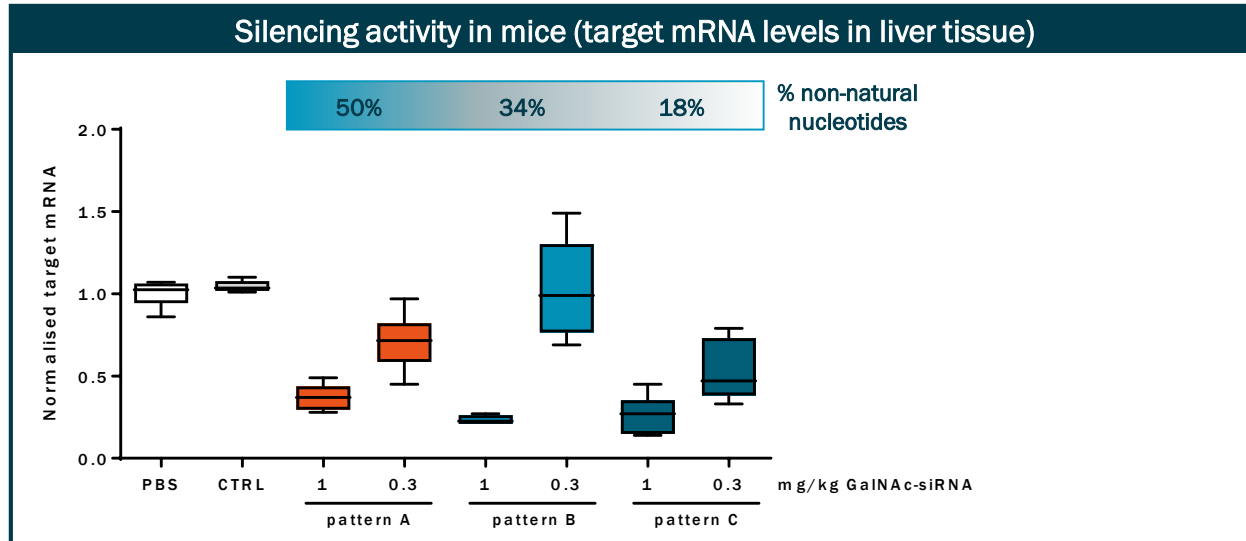
> Hundreds of variations (chemical modifications, patterns, sequences) were tested to identify patterns with reduced non-natural nucleotide content from ~50% to less than 15%

Serum stability and activity of molecules with reduced non-natural nucleotide content



Molecules with dramatically reduced non-natural nucleotide content retain excellent nuclease resistance and activity in primary hepatocytes

In vivo activity of GalNAc-conjugated siRNA with reduced non-natural nucleotide content



Molecules with dramatically reduced non-natural nucleotide content produce outstanding gene silencing in vivo

Summary – GalNAc-conjugated siRNA modifications for endonuclease protection

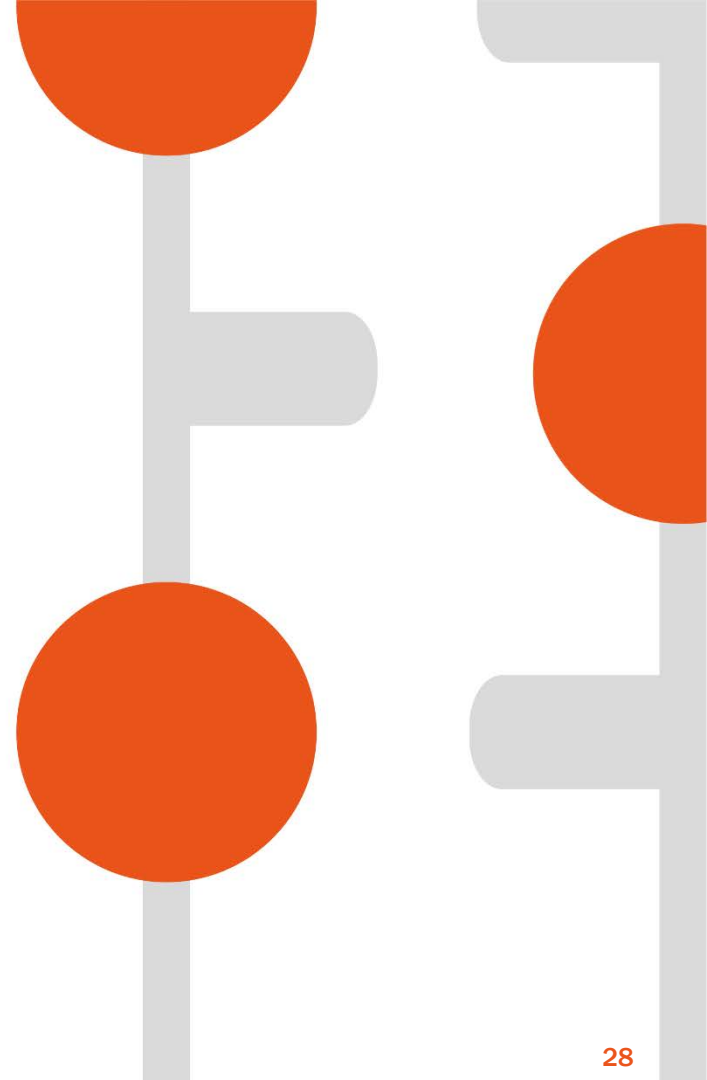


Identified chemical modification patterns that

- > Reduce non-natural nucleotide content from ~50% to less than 15%
- > Retain outstanding nuclease stability, as well as robust silencing activity *in vitro* and *in vivo*
- > Can be applied to any siRNA sequence, permitting accelerated lead optimisation



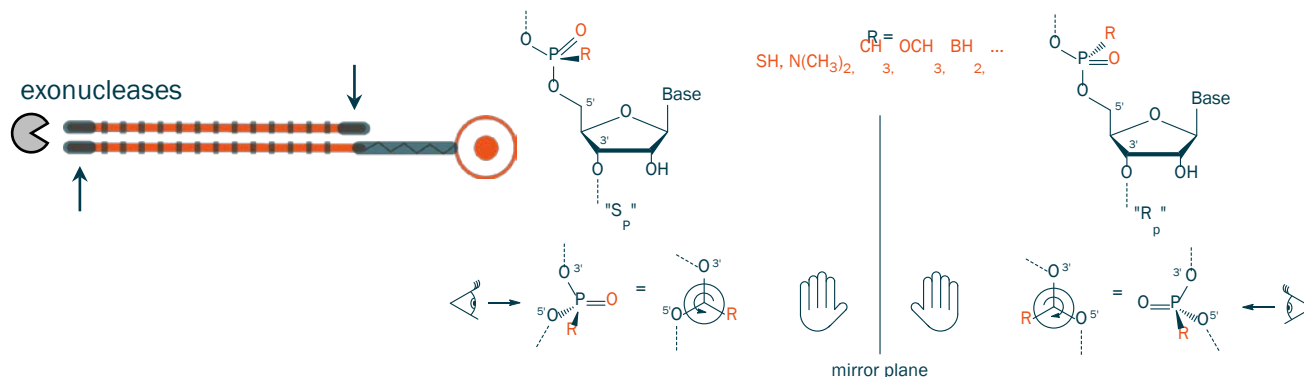
End protection against exonucleases



Challenges associated with the use of non-natural end-protecting moieties

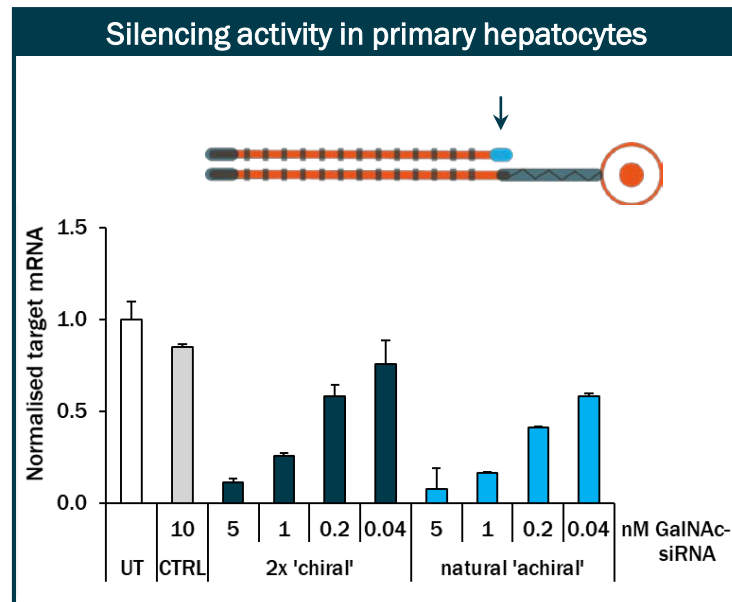
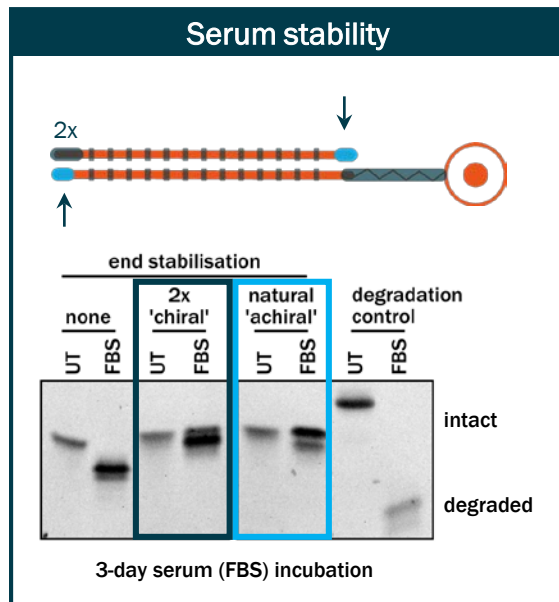


- > Most siRNA end-protecting moieties are not naturally occurring in the human body, and may cause side effects
- > End-protecting moieties can add undefined chiral centres that may increase complexity of compound manufacturing and characterisation



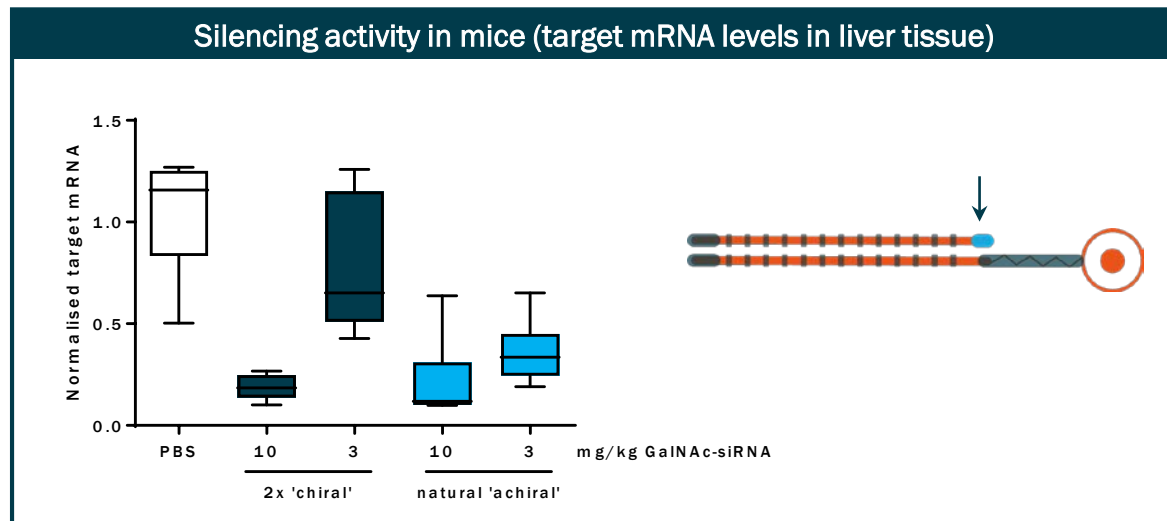
- > The goal is to identify and apply naturally occurring moieties for the end protection, which do not add stereogenic complexity ('achiral')

Performance of GalNAc-conjugated siRNA with natural 'achiral' end-protecting moieties



Engagement of single naturally occurring 'achiral' end-protecting moieties yields increased stability and robust gene silencing activity

In vivo activity of GalNAc-conjugated siRNA with natural achiral end-protecting moieties



GalNAc-siRNA molecules with naturally occurring single 'achiral' end-protecting moieties are highly potent *in vivo*

Summary – End modifications for exonuclease protection



exonucleases

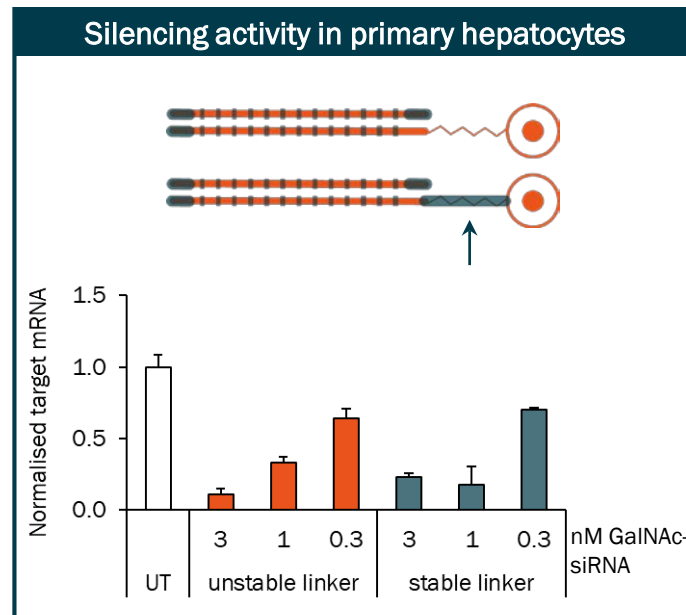
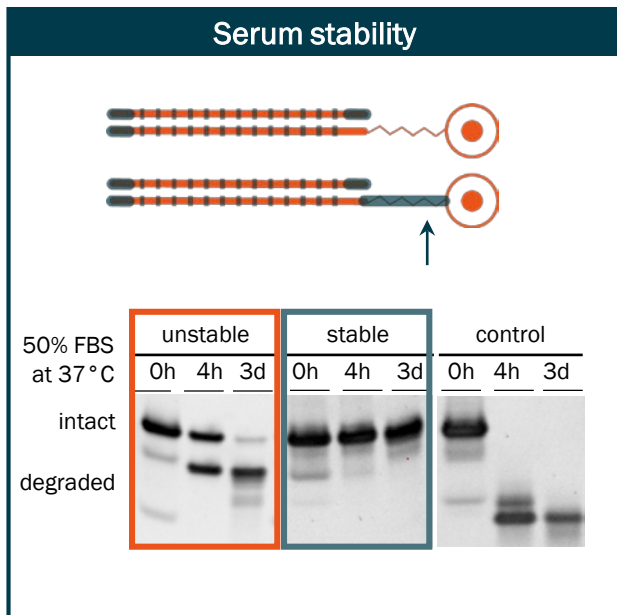


Identified end-protecting moieties, which

- > Are naturally occurring and do not add stereogenic complexity ('achiral')
- > Yield increased nuclease stability
- > Show excellent activity in vitro and in vivo
- > Can be applied to **any siRNA** sequence

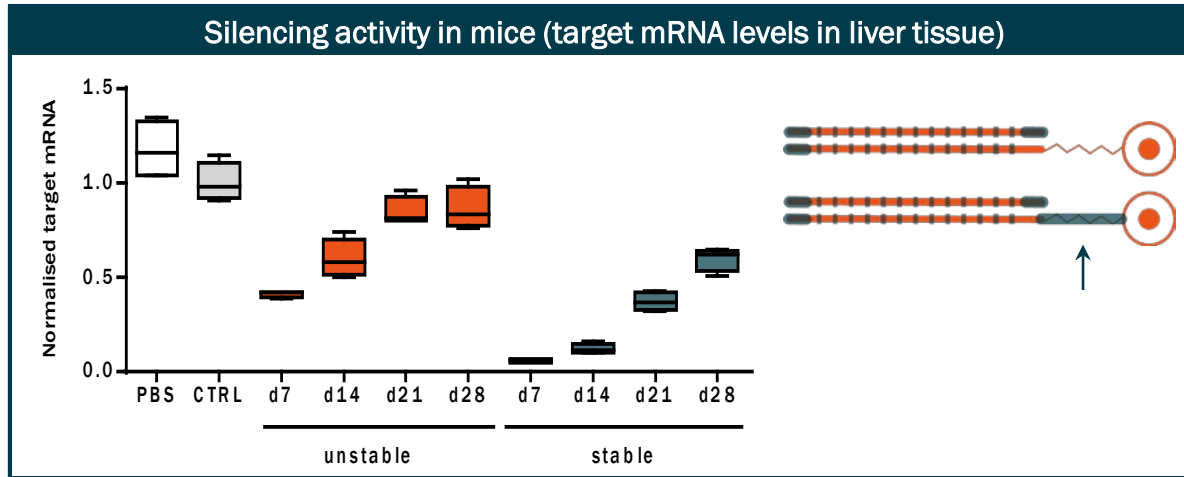
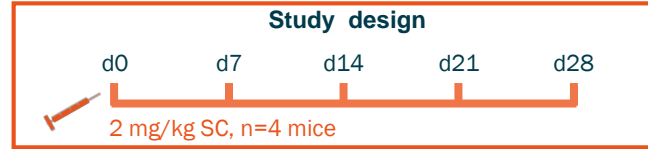
Stabilization of the linker

Performance of GalNAc-conjugated siRNA with stabilized linker



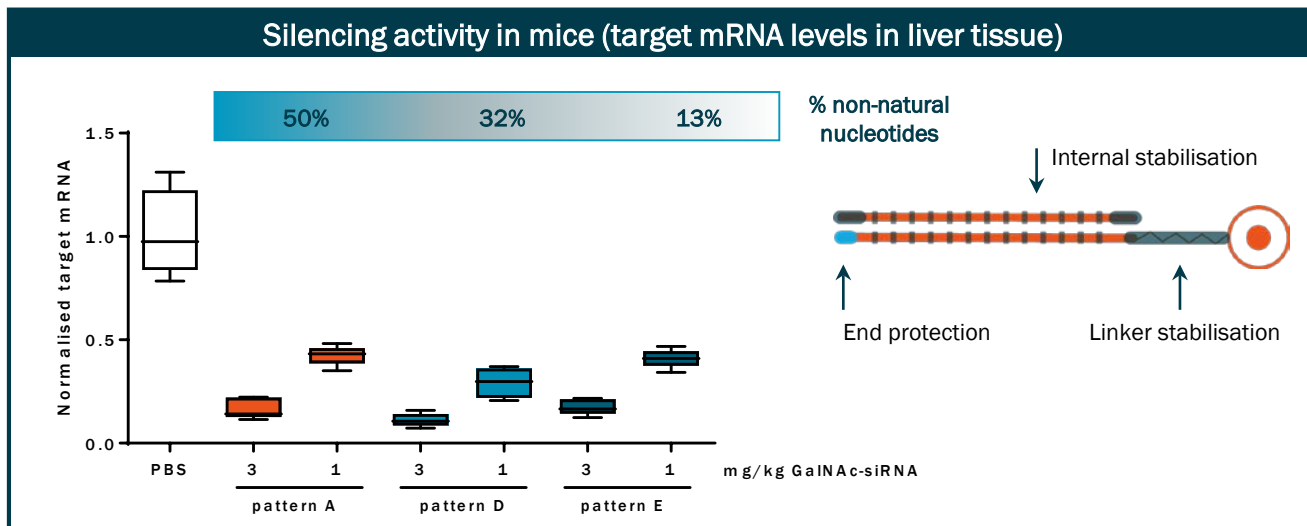
GalNAc-conjugated siRNA with stabilized linker produces robust silencing activity in primary hepatocytes

In vivo activity of GalNAc-conjugated siRNA with stabilized linker



GalNAc-conjugated siRNA with stabilized linker yields stronger and prolonged target silencing *in vivo*

Combining GalNAc-conjugated siRNA nucleobase modifications, end protection, and linker stabilization



Incorporation of novel chemical modification patterns, end-protecting and linker-stabilising moieties yields robust GalNAc-siRNA silencing in vivo

Summary – GalNAc-conjugated siRNA innovation



- > Designed highly stable and potent GalNAc-siRNA molecules
- > Reduced non-natural nucleotide content and “unpredicted chiral” end-protecting modifications by up to 85%
- > Internal and end-protecting patterns can be applied to any siRNA sequence, accelerating lead optimisation
- > Established a more robust and easier to control synthesis
- > Supported by fundamental IP, granted in US and Europe
- > 10+ additional patent applications filed 2017

Acknowledgements



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Hauptmann, Lucas Bethge



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Künstler

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