

### Directed Evolution of AAV9 Libraries in Non-Human Primates Identifies a Capsid Family with Enhanced Central Nervous System Tropism and Liver De-Targeting Following Systemic Delivery

May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 **Xiaojing Shi, PhD** Principal Scientist



## Disclosure

• Xiaojing Shi is a full-time employee of Capsida Biotherapeutics.



### **Capsida Biotherapeutics**



Foundation in capsid engineering with focus on building a new class of targeted, non-invasive gene therapies



Pipeline of wholly owned and partnered programs in rare and more common Neurological and Ophthalmology diseases

Fully integrated capabilities: capsid engineering, cargo optimization, discovery, preclinical research, process development, manufacturing, and clinical development

terilGARD





## NHP Driven Targeted Gene Therapy Engineering Platform

High-throughput Automated Process Identifies Capsids that Target Desired Tissues and Cell Types While De-targeting Undesired Tissues







Automated Biologically Driven NHP Screening Combined with Analysis of Murine and Human Cells In Vitro Sequence and Structure based analysis

## Library Design and Screening Strategy





## Gen5 Capsid Family was Identified to be Enriched in Brain and De-target Liver



Variant score considers enrichment values and consistency in performance across codon replicates, tissue replicates and animals

Reference capsid (AAV9) was titrated at multiple doses in the library

Each box represents the average of 3 codon replicates for a variant and the average across four animals

Enrichment (Tissue Cpm / Viral Cpm)



## Gen5 Capsids Demonstrate Improved RNA Expression Across CNS Regions

### Platform and Process Improvements Led to Continuous Advancements of Variants Across Generations



• Each box represents the average of 3 barcodes for a variant and the average across four animals

Log10 +1 Enrichment (Tissue Cpm / Viral Cpm)



## Gen 5 Capsids Yield Breakthrough Transduction Across The CNS And Significant Liver De-Targeting vs WT AAV9



### Liver De-targeting

### Up to ~16x decrease in Liver De-targeting



Gen 5 capsids are well tolerated with no clinical pathology or immunogenicity findings

Unremarkable histopathology across the body, including liver and DRGs



### Gen5 Capsid Achieves Widespread Protein Expression Across the Brain Following IV Delivery in NHPs



Capsid: Gen 5; Dose: 1.25E13 vg/kg Cargo: HA-GOI; In-life: 6 weeks Species/Age: N = 3 cynomolgus macaques, ~42mo

## Gen5 Capsid Results in Extensive Transduction of NHP Motor Neurons



Cargo: HA-GOI, Dose: 1.25E13 vg/kg, In-life: 6 weeks, Species: Cynomolgus macaques, Age: ~42mo



### Summary

Demonstrated **success in engineering next-generation AAV capsids** for specific, widespread CNS expression via Capsida's NHP-driven targeted gene therapy platform

**Breakthrough CNS transduction** and **effective liver de-targeting** achieved with Gen 5 capsids in NHPs following systemic administration

Up to 70% neuron transduction (over 85% motor neurons) achieved at low doses with Gen 5 capsids

Advancement of wholly owned and partnered CNS-targeted gene therapy programs enabled by Gen 5 capsids, including treatments for genetic epilepsy (STXBP1 mutations) and Parkinson's Disease (GBA mutations)

Efficient **production of Gen 5 capsids at yields comparable to wild type AAV9**, enabled by Capsida's suspension manufacturing platform



### Acknowledgements

### **Capsid Engineering**

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High-Throughput Screening Platform		Vector Production		
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Han Young Lim	Jeremy Patrick		Jordyn Wheeler	Gordon Gibson
Nicole Grepo	Matthew Frias			
Edwin Lamas				

Christian Mercado

## **Other Capsida Presentations**

### **Oral Presentations**

- AAV Gene Therapy Corrects Neurological Phenotypes with Clinically Relevant Doses in a Mouse Model of STXBP1-Related Development and Epileptic Encephalopathy; Abs # 38 – Wu Chen (BCM) – Tues May 7, 3:00-3:15 PM
- Systemic AAV Gene Therapy with CNS-Targeted Engineered Capsids Achieves Significant GCase Activity Increases in the Primate Brain to Support the Potential Treatment of GBA-PD; Abs # 274 – Nicholas Flytzanis – Fri May 10, 3:00 - 3:15 PM

#### **Poster Presentations**

- CAP-002: Systemic AAV Gene Therapy with Next Generation Capsida for Treatment of STXBP1 Encephalopathy; Abs # 504

   Allison Knoll Wed, May 8
- Directed Evolution of AAV2 Libraries Yields Capsids with Improved Performance in the Central Nervous System and Cross-species Translatability; Abs # 992 – Sean Gross – Thurs, May 9
- Alternative Plasmid Designs Including Two Plasmid Transfection Systems for Improved Production and Packaging of Engineered AAV Capsids; Abs # 530 – Lysa-Anne Volpe – Wed, May 8
- Characterization of engineered AAV capsids from different HEK293 cell culture fractions, crude lysate versus cell pellet material; Abs # 529 – Heidy Morales – Wed, May 8
- Separation of Empty and Full Engineered Adeno-Associated Virus Capsids Using a Weak Anion Exchanger; Abs # 1038 Varun Gejji – Thurs, May 9





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