

GLUCOKINASE: Advancing Diabetes Care

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Hua Medicine
华领医药

BIO International San Diego
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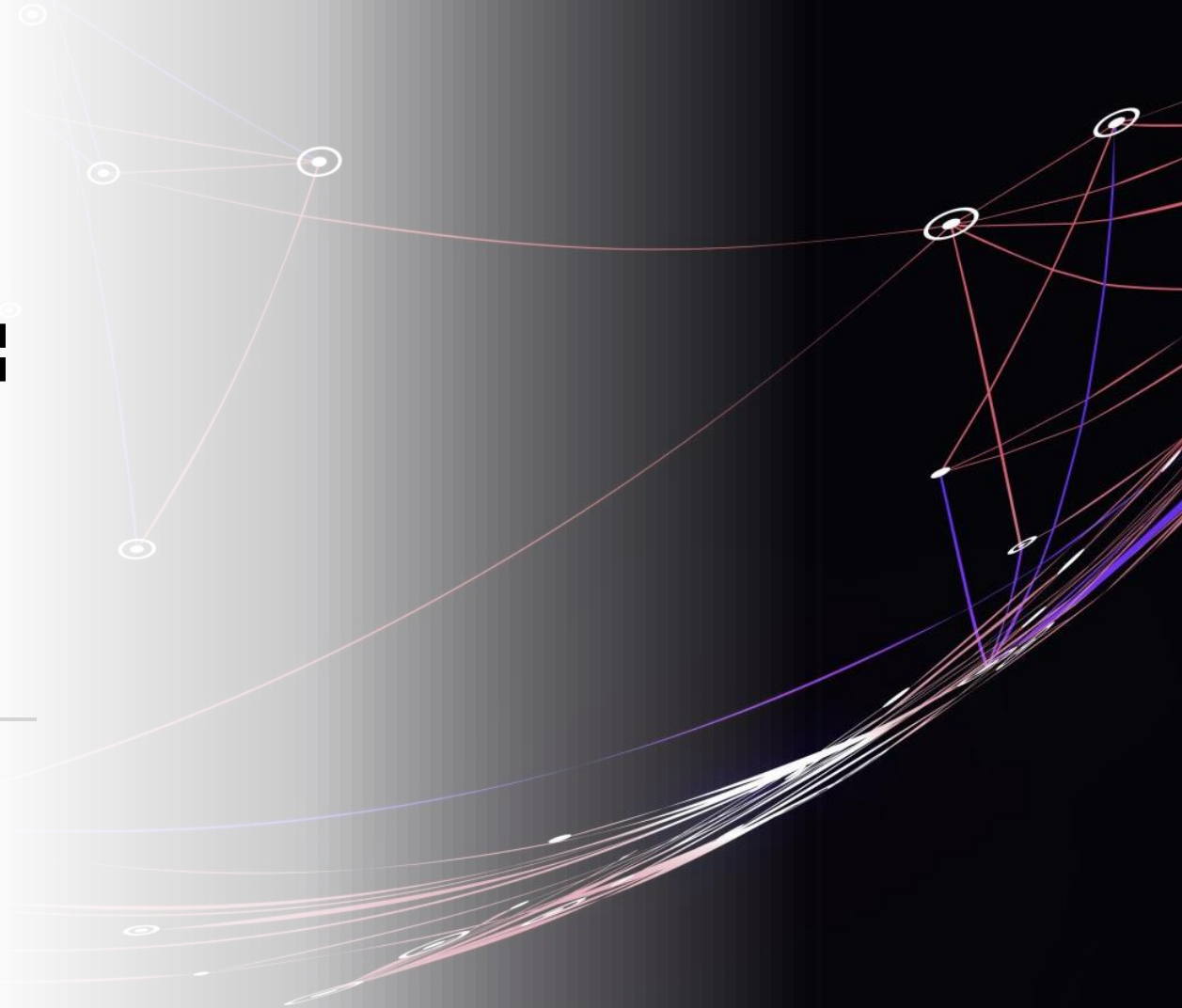
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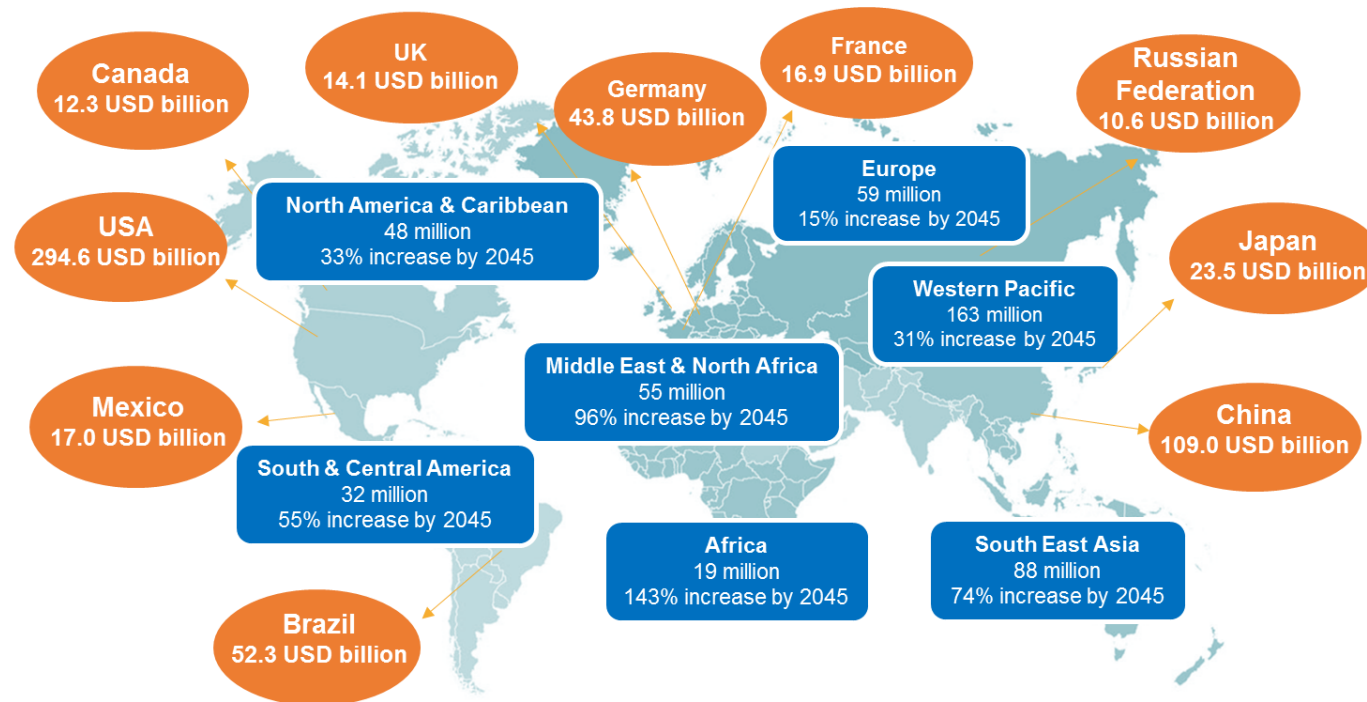


Type 2 Diabetes: A Global Epidemic



No drug modifies diabetes... until now

- ~**537 million** adults live with diabetes globally; **>120+ million** in **China** and **>38 million** in the U.S. (IDF, 2021; CDC, 2021)
- No currently approved therapeutics to deal with **the underlying cause of T2D**. Existing drugs on the market are **not disease modifying**.
- Total diabetes-related health expenditure will reach **USD 825 billion** by 2030. (IDF, 2019)

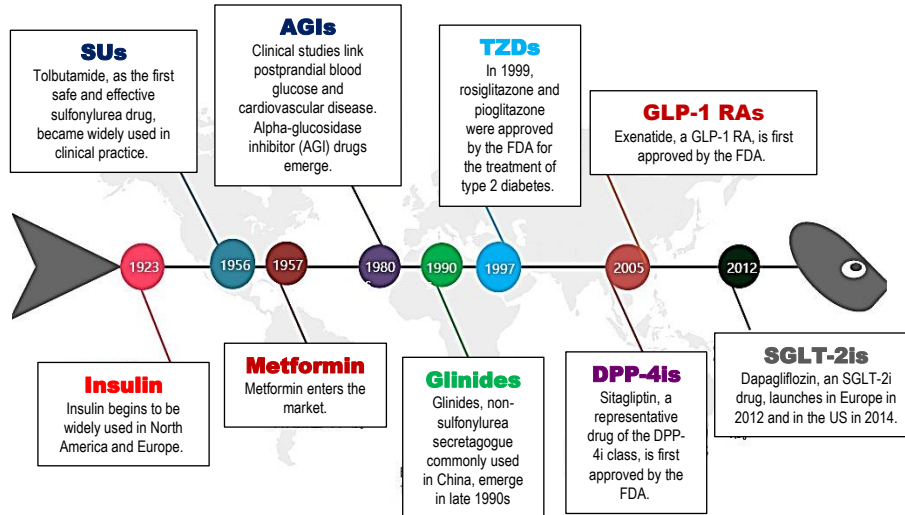


- Number of people (20-79 years) with diabetes
- Top 10 countries or territories for total health expenditure due to diabetes

Source: IDF DIABETES ATLAS Ninth edition 2019.

Note: Diabetes-related health expenditure refers to the direct costs. Direct costs are the health expenditures due to diabetes – regardless of whether this expenditure is born by patients themselves or by private or public payers or by government.

Global unmet need in glycemic control

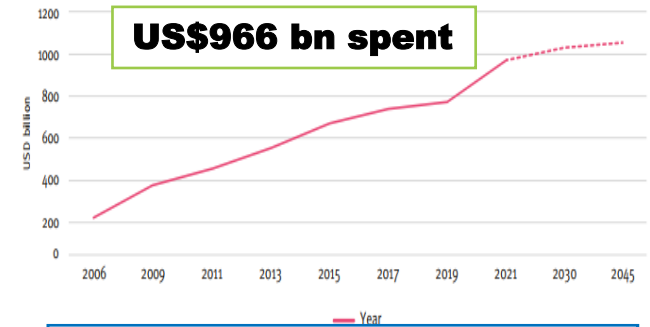


赖立新. 2型糖尿病的药物治疗[J]. 临床药物治疗杂志, 2015, 13(3): 18-22.
 Bae E J. DPP-4 inhibitors in diabetic complications: role of DPP-4 beyond glucose control[J]. Archives of pharmaceutical research, 2016, 39(8): 1114-1128.
 Knop F K, Branden A, Vilsboll T. Exenatide: pharmacokinetics, clinical use, and future directions[J]. Expert opinion on pharmacotherapy, 2011, 18(6): 555-571.

9 Classes of Drugs

- 9 classes of diabetes drugs on the market treat symptoms, **not underlying causes**.
- Activating the glucokinase can lead to glucose homeostasis, modification of diabetes and remission.
- Published data** on remission for 52 weeks.
- China making strides in “treating” diabetes.
- What’s next?**

Figure 3.14 Total diabetes-related health expenditure for adults (20–79 years) with diabetes from 2006 to 2045



Diabetes Expenditure: Top 10

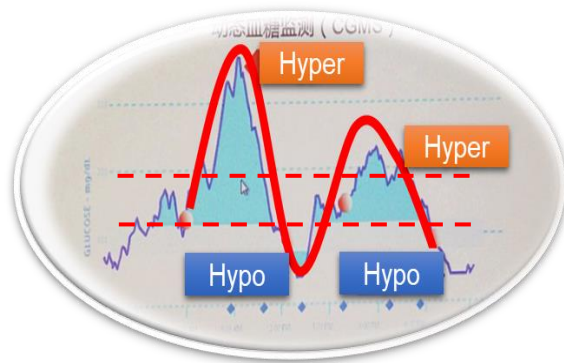
Rank	Country or territory	Total diabetes-related health expenditure in 2021 (USD billion) in adults (20–79 years)
1	United States of America	379.5
2	China	165.3
3	Brazil	42.9
4	Germany	41.3
5	Japan	35.6
6	United Kingdom	23.4
7	France	22.7
8	Mexico	19.9
9	Spain	15.5
10	Italy	14.7

Managing T2D symptoms is not enough

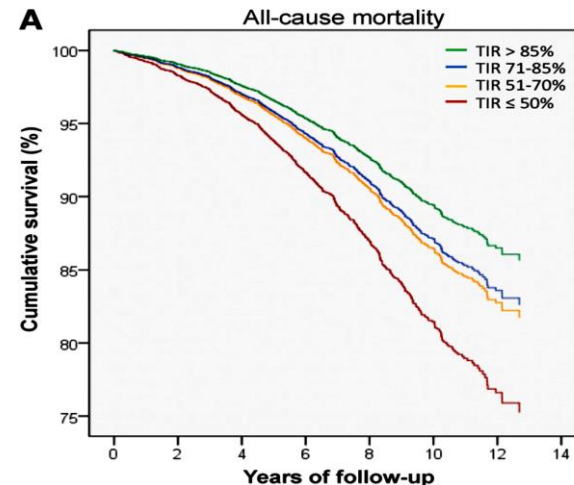


How do we stop Type 2 Diabetes?

- Lowering blood glucose levels alone does not stop the progressive degenerative nature of diabetes, leading to complications.
- **Glucose Time In Range (TIR)** is a key metric to track and treat diabetes.



Lost Glucose Homeostasis



TIR in Diabetes Survival

Goal in treating T2D:

Maintain blood glucose levels within a healthy range **autonomously**, achieving **glucose homeostasis** (4-6.5mM).



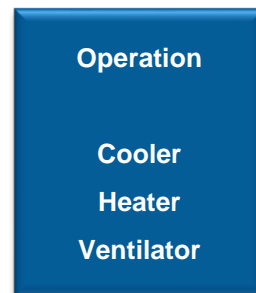
**Advancing
diabetes
treatment
globally:
From chronic
to curable**



Glucokinase is the sensor in glucose homeostasis

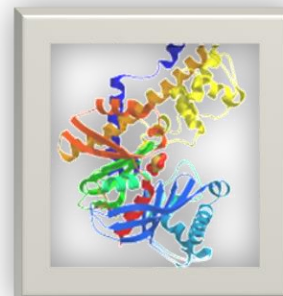
Thermostat in a Building

- Primary Messenger: air temperature
- Set Point: 22° Celsius
- Threshold: 21-23° Celsius
- Controller: Thermo Sensor (thermostat)
- 2nd Messenger: Electronic signal
- Operator: Heater, Cooler, Ventilator



Glucose Homeostasis in Human Body

- Primary Messenger: Glucose level
- Set Point: 5 mmol/liter¹
- Threshold: 4-6 mmol/liter¹
- Controller: Glucokinase in the pancreas and small intestine-Glucose Sensor
- 2nd Messenger: insulin, glucagon, GLP-1
- Operator: Glucose uptake, utilization, storage and production organs



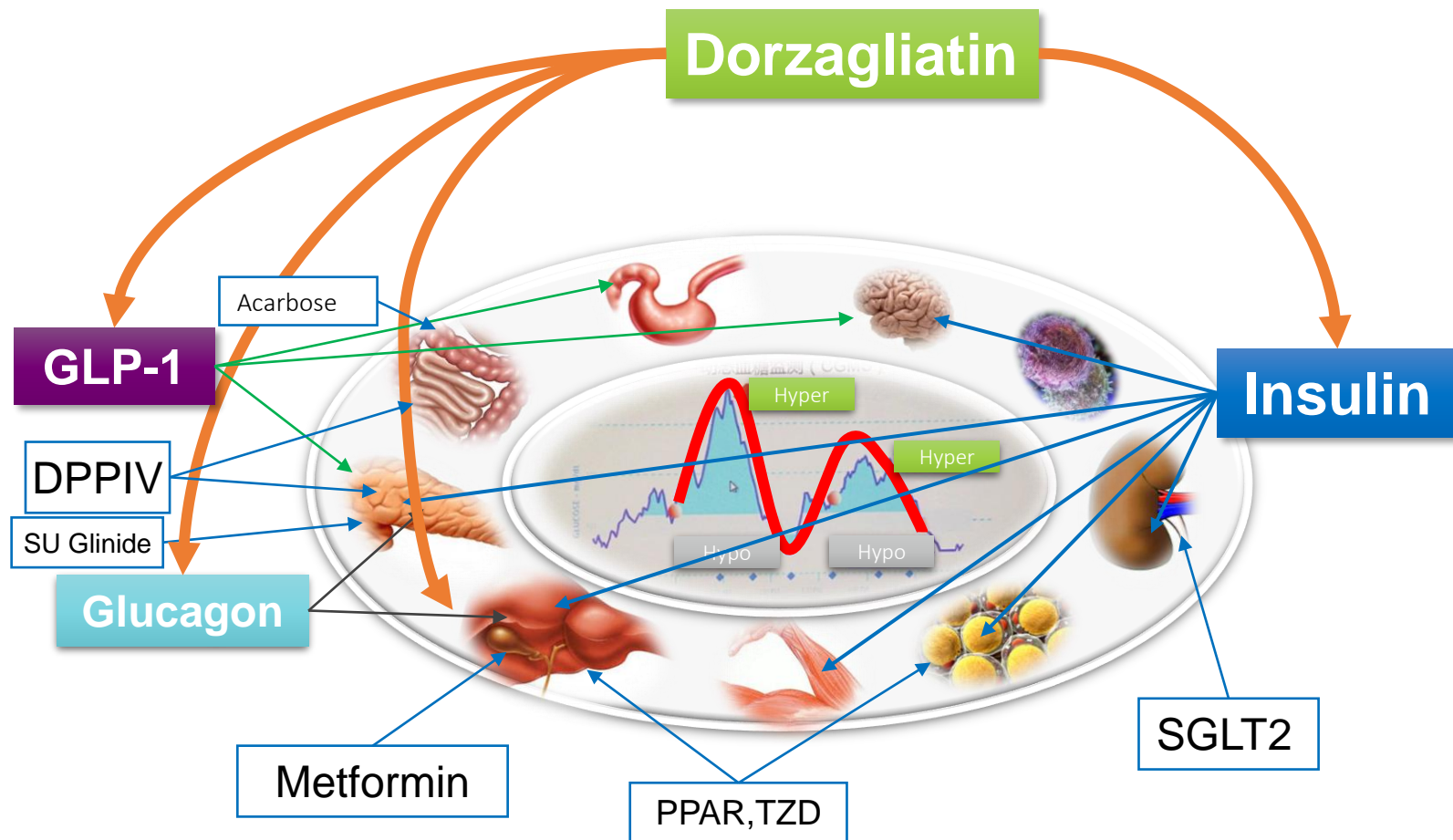
When the **sensor GK malfunctions** or is impaired, automatic control is lost. This causes insulin resistance and a reduction of beta cell function and **leads to T2D**.

Source: Franz Matschinsky, *Mol. and Cell Biology of Type 2 Diabetes and Its Complications*, 1998, vol 4, pp 14-29

¹ A common measure of blood glucose levels is hemoglobin A1c, or HbA1c, which measures average glycated blood glucose levels for the 3 months prior to testing. HbA1c levels for people without diabetes is between 4% and 5.6% (equivalent to 4-5.6 mmol/liter), for people with impaired glucose tolerance (IGT), or pre-diabetics, is between 5.74% and 6.4% (equivalent to 5.74 -6.4 mmol/liter) and for people with diabetes is 6.5% or higher (equivalent to 6.5 mmol/liter or higher).

² In addition to GK (also referred to as hexokinase type 4), Hexokinase types 1-3 play a role in the glucose homeostasis process. Unlike a properly functioning GK, which is only active at blood glucose levels over 5.5 mmol/liter, hexokinase types 1-3 are active in the presence of even small amounts of glucose in the bloodstream – providing as a bodily survival mechanism needed energy to the brain, muscles and other core bodily functions.

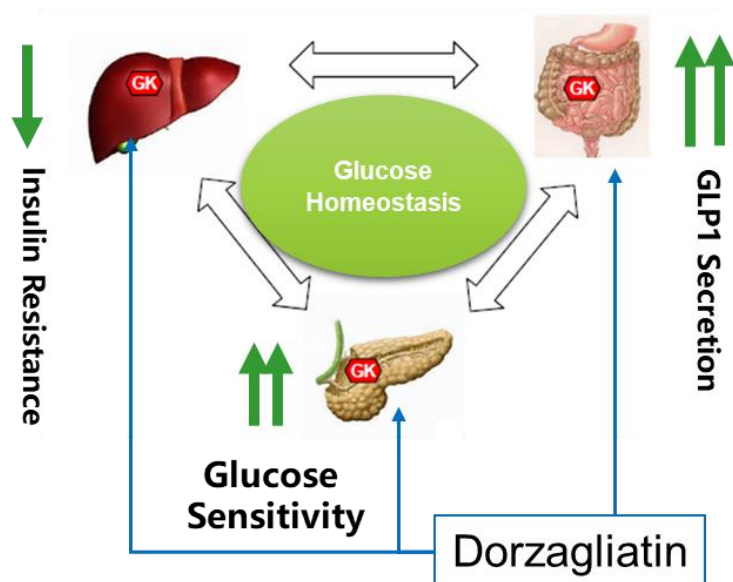
Dorzagliatin: Central role in diabetes control



Dorzagliatin as **cornerstone therapy** for diabetes management and control.

Combination of dorzagliatin with other T2D therapies creates **synergy to restore glucose homeostasis** and better health.

Dorzagliatin: First-in-class drug to restore glucose homeostasis



Repair early-phase insulin secretion:
Diabetes remission

Repair GLP-1 secretion:
Control obesity

Improvement of TIR:
PPG reduction

Reduce insulin resistance:
Diabetes remission

Restore glucose homeostasis:
**Prevention, remission,
rejuvenation**

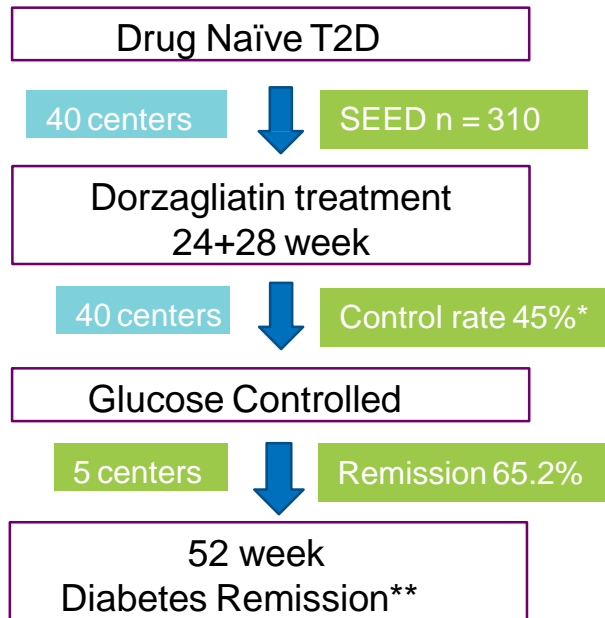
Source: Chen L, Zhang JY et al. Nature Communications, A phase I open-label clinical trial to study drug-drug interactions of Dorzagliatin and Sitagliptin in patients with type 2 diabetes and obesity 2023, 3: 1405.

DREAM: DoRzagliatin's Effect in DiAbetes ReMission

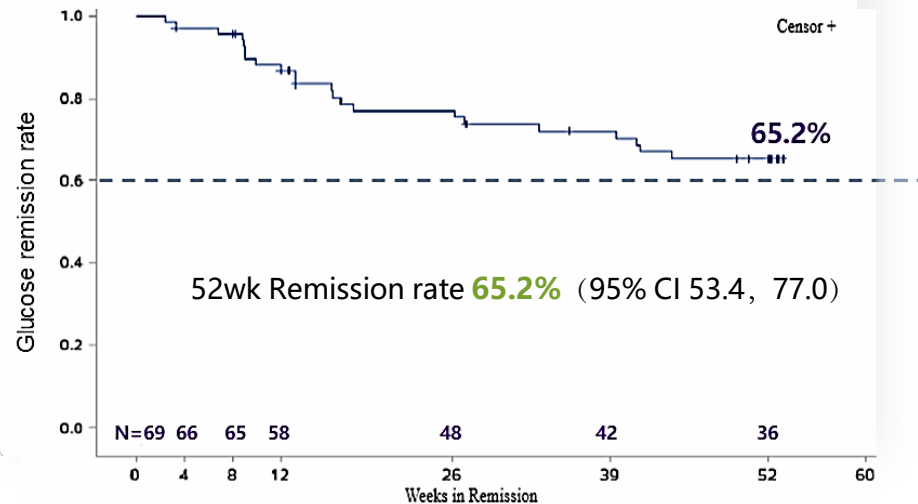


DREAM study: **Diabetes remission** in drug naïve patients who completed SEED study.

- Total 69 subjects with average A1c of 6.61%, 2.2 year disease history.
- Blood **glucose levels remained on target** without glucose-lowering drugs.
- 65.2% diabetes remission achieved at week 52.
- IIT study at 5 clinical centers in China.



DREAM study glyceimic remission time survival analysis (Kaplan-Meier method)



Fix the system instead of playing 'whack-a-mole' with symptoms.

* Control rate at 24 week of SEED study: HbA1c < 7%.

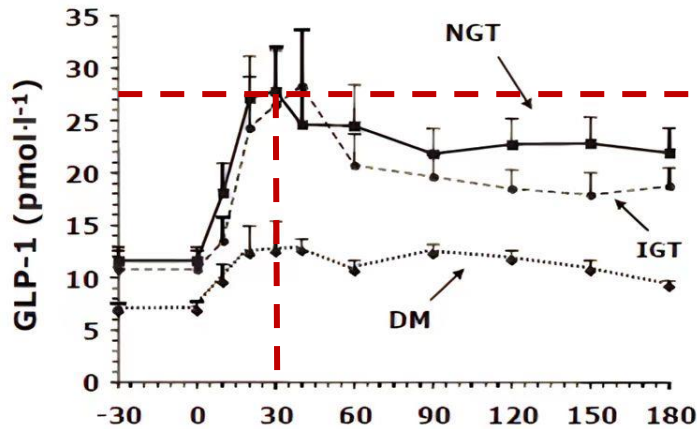
** Based on the 2021 "Expert Consensus on Diabetes Remission" (HbA1c lasting less than 6.5% within 3 months without medication), survival analysis showed that the remission rate at 12 weeks was **52.0%** (95% CI 31.2%, 69.2%).

Improved GLP-1 secretion in patients with obesity

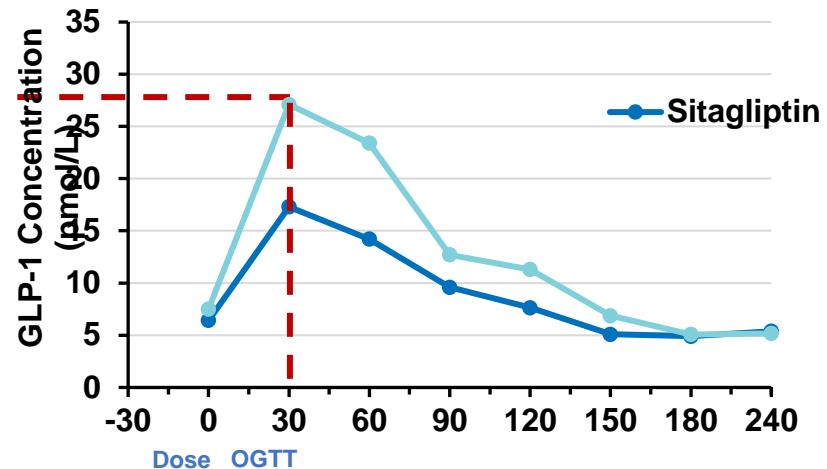
Ferrannini et al. reported that glucose-stimulated **GLP-1 secretion was significantly decreased** in T2D patients with obesity.

Dorzagliatin regulates GLP-1 secretion. 30 minutes after OGTT, GLP-1 levels of T2D patients with obesity were **close to those of people with normal glucose tolerance.**

GLP-1 Levels of IGT and NGT



GLP-1 levels in T2D Patients with Obesity Treated with Dorzagliatin or Sitagliptin



It was proven for the first time in a clinical trial that dorzagliatin improves GLP-1 secretion in both islets and intestines, thereby increasing glucose-stimulated insulin secretion.

GK: Trigger for Insulin Secretion

As a glucose receptor, it is the first step in intracellular glucose utilization. GK senses increased glucose concentration, rapidly responds to the release of insulin stored in the vesicles and increases insulin secretion. (Phase I is dominant, Phase II is complementary.)

Ferrannini, E. et al, Diabetes, 2008, 57(5), 1340-1348



GLP-1: Amplifier of insulin secretion

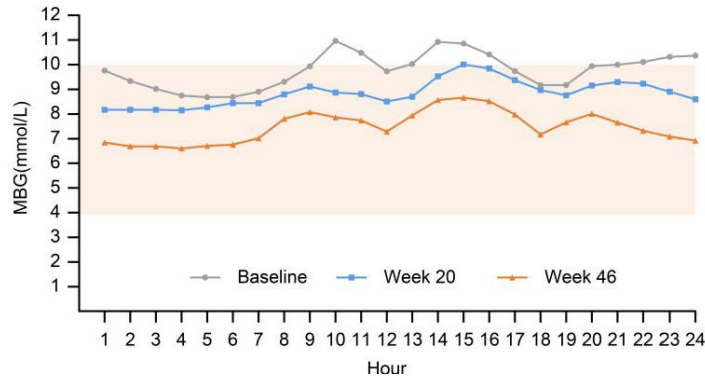
GLP-1 binds to GLP-1 receptor, activates cAMP pathway and vesicular insulin releases after β -cells perceive the increase of glucose concentration. It also promotes insulin transcription and replenishes vesicular insulin refilling (Phase II) to improve insulin secretion. (Phase II is dominant, Phase I is complementary.)



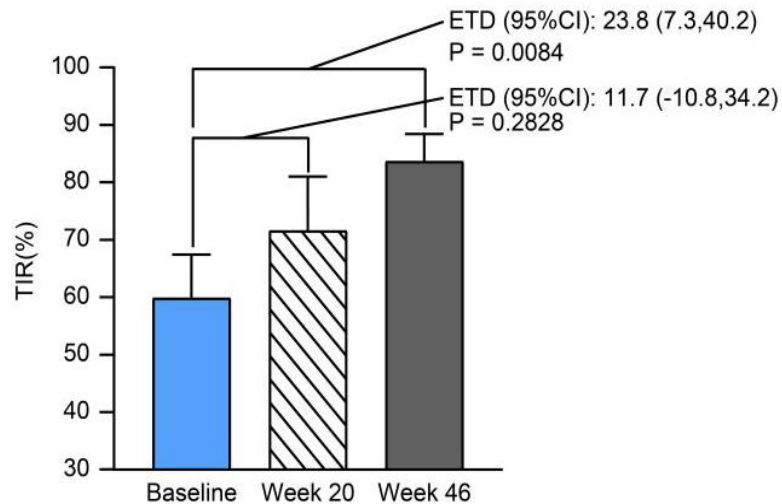
Cooperative improvement insulin secretion

Dorzagliatin improved TIR, repaired islet function

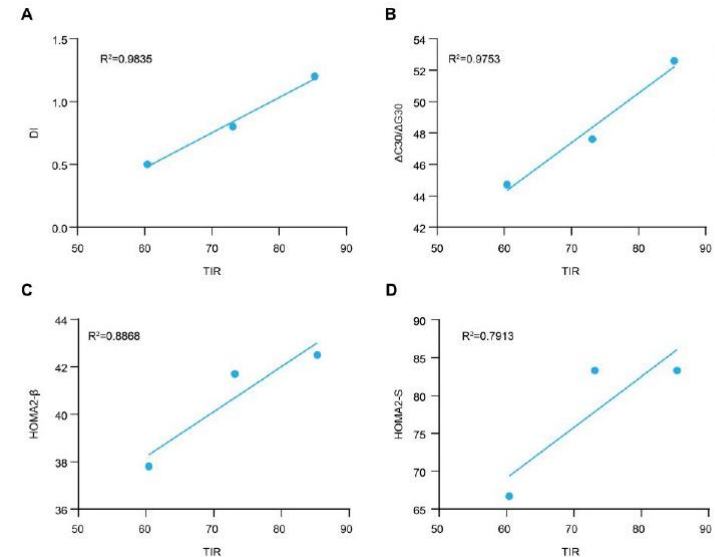
Dorzagliatin significantly Improved blood glucose within 24 hours



TIR increased with the duration of treatment, reaching 83.7% at 46 Weeks



Islet function was improved synchronously by TIR



- Dorzagliatin **improves daily glucose homeostasis** in T2D patients.
- Long-term use of dorzagliatin brings a **steady improvement in TIR**.
- Damaged islet function is gradually restored.
- Potential to be **only T2D therapeutic for more severe stages of diabetic kidney disease patients**, which make up 20 - 40%.

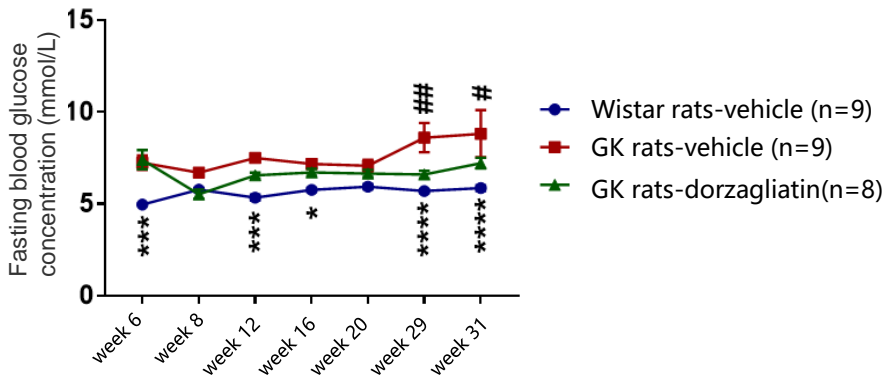
Dorzagliatin improves cognitive impairment in rats

- Non-obese diabetic Goto-Kakizaki rats (GK rats) exhibit increase in blood glucose and decreased memory function with age.
- With 26 weeks treatment of low-dose dorzagliatin, the trend of **elevated fasting blood glucose in GK rats was significantly lower** than that in the vehicle group and had a protective effect against the decline of memory function.

Long-term administration of dorzagliatin prevents the reduction of insulin receptor protein expression and stabilizes the protein expression level of glucose transporters in hippocampus of GK rats.

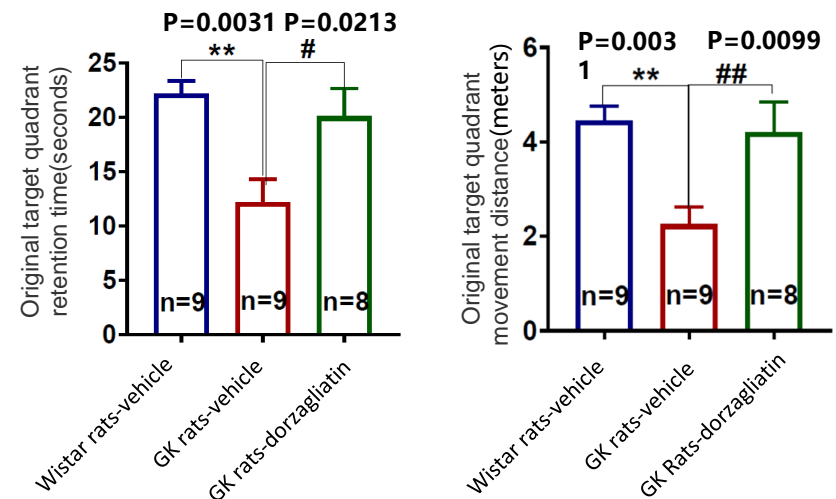
Dorzagliatin exerts a protective effect on memory function by protecting the glucose metabolism function in body and inhibiting the decline of glucose metabolism function in the brain of GK rats.

Changes of Fasting Blood Glucose in Rats with Age



GK-vehicle compared with Wistar group, *P<0.05, ***P<0.001, ****P<0.0001.
GK-vehicle compared with GK-dorzagliatin group, #P<0.05, ##P<0.01.

Morris Water Maze Spatial Memory Test at 33 Weeks



Dorzagliatin: Int'l peer-reviewed publications

Dorzagliatin monotherapy in Chinese patients with type 2 diabetes: a dose-ranging, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase 2 study

Dalong Zhu, Shenglian Gan, Yu Luo, Jianhua Ma, Xiaolin Dong, Weihong Song, Jiao'e Zeng, Guixia Wang, Wenjuan Zhao, Qiu Zhang, Yuhui Li, Huifang Li, Xiaoyue Wang, Yanyan Shi, Hanyang Tian, Liming Ji, Xin Gao, Jiahua Zhang, Yujian Bao, Minrong Chen, Ting Li, Longyi Zeng, Xiaoying Li, Xinghua Hou, Yu Zhao, Tianlin Hu, Xiaoyun Ge, Gujiu Zhao, Yongqiao Li, Yi Zhang, Li Chen

Summary

Background Glucokinase has a central role in glucose homeostasis in humans, and provides a novel target for the treatment of type 2 diabetes. We aimed to evaluate the efficacy and safety of dorzagliatin monotherapy in Chinese patients with type 2 diabetes.

Methods In this multicentre, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase 2 study, 111 patients with type 2 diabetes were randomised to receive either dorzagliatin 50 mg twice a day, 100 mg twice a day, or placebo twice a day, without stratification. All patients had a BMI of 19.0–30.0 kg m⁻².

Results The primary endpoint was the change in HbA_{1c} from baseline to week 12, which was significantly lower in the dorzagliatin 100 mg twice a day group compared with the placebo group (−1.8% vs −0.8%, *P* < 0.001). The secondary endpoint was the change in fasting plasma glucose (FPG) from baseline to week 12, which was significantly lower in the dorzagliatin 100 mg twice a day group compared with the placebo group (−1.8 mmol L⁻¹ vs −0.8 mmol L⁻¹, *P* < 0.001). The most common adverse events were headache, dizziness, and nausea. No serious adverse events were reported. The study was registered with ClinicalTrials.gov, NCT03790839.

Improve Insulin Secretion And Reduce Insulin Resistance

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randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase 2 study, 111 patients with type 2 diabetes were randomised to receive either dorzagliatin 50 mg twice a day, 100 mg twice a day, or placebo twice a day, without stratification. All patients had a BMI of 19.0–30.0 kg m⁻².

Dorzagliatin in drug-naïve patients with type 2 diabetes: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled phase 3 trial

Dalong Zhu^{1,4,5,6}, Xiaoying Li^{1,4,5,6}, Jianhua Ma¹, Jiao'e Zeng¹, Shenglian Gan¹, Xiaolin Dong¹, Jing Yang¹, Xiaohong Lin¹, Hanqing Chen¹, Yibing Lu¹, Ruifang Bu¹, Huige Shao¹, Wenjuan Zhao¹, Ping Li¹, Li Sun^{1,2}, Lixuan Quanmin Li^{1,2}, Zongbao Li^{1,2}, Maoxiong Wenhui Li^{1,4}, Xuefeng Yu^{1,3}, Guijun Qin^{1,3}, Zhou Yang^{1,7}, Benli Su^{1,8}, Longyi Zeng^{1,9}, Houfa Geng^{1,0}, Yongquan Shi^{1,0}, Yu Zhao^{1,4,2}, Yi Zhang^{1,4,2}, Wenyang Yang^{1,4,10} and Li Chen^{1,4,11}

Phase 3 SEED

Dorzagliatin add-on therapy to metformin in patients with type 2 diabetes: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled phase 3 trial

Wenyang Yang¹, Dalong Zhu^{2,3,4}, Shenglian Gan¹, Xiaolin Dong¹, Junping Su¹, Wenhui Li^{1,2}, Hongwei Jiang¹, Wenjuan Zhao¹, Minxun Yao¹, Weihong Song^{1,2}, Yibing Lu¹, Xiuzhen Zhang^{1,2}, Huifang Li^{1,3}, Guixia Wang^{1,4}, Wei Qiu^{1,5}, Guoyue Yuan^{1,6}, Jianhua Ma^{1,7}, Wei Li^{1,8}, Ziling Li^{1,9}, Xiaoyue Wang^{1,10}, Jiao'e Zeng^{1,11}, Zhou Yang^{1,12}, Jingdong Liu^{1,13}, Yongqian Liang^{1,14}, Song Lu^{1,15}, Hui Li^{1,16}, Huiwen Tan^{1,17}, Zhongyan Shan^{1,18}, Ya Jiao Sun^{1,19}, Ping Li^{1,20}, Xiaohui Guo^{1,21}, Qi Yao^{1,22}, Weiping Lu^{1,23}, Shen Qu^{1,24}, Hongmei Li^{1,25}, Liling Tan^{1,26}, Wenbo Wang^{1,27}, Yongji Yao^{1,28}, Daoxiong Chen^{1,29}, Yulan Li^{1,30}, Jialin Gao^{1,31}, Wen Hu^{1,32}, Xiaoqiang Fei^{1,33}, Tianfeng Wu^{1,34}, Song Dong^{1,35}, Wenlong Jin^{1,36}, Chenzhong Li^{1,37}, Dong Zhao^{1,38}, Bo Feng^{1,39}, Yu Zhao^{1,40}, Yi Zhang^{1,41}, Xiaoying Li^{1,42,43} and Li Chen^{1,44,45}

Phase 3 DAWN

A phase I open-label clinical trial to study drug-drug interactions of Dorzagliatin and Sitagliptin in patients with type 2 diabetes and obesity

Received: 18 July 2022 | Accepted: 22 February 2023 | Published online: 14 March 2023
This is a phase I, open-label, single-sequence, multiple-dose, single-center trial conducted in the US (NCT03790839), to evaluate the clinical pharmacokinetics of dorzagliatin in patients with type 2 diabetes and obesity who are also taking sitagliptin.

Improve GLP-1 Secretion

A new class of drug in the diabetes toolbox

The DAWN and SEED trials demonstrate the potential of glucokinase activators for the treatment of type 2 diabetes, but how they fit in the overall treatment algorithm remains to be determined.
Klara R. Klein and John B. Buse

For nearly three decades, scientists have searched for an orally active small molecule activator of glucokinase (GK) for the treatment of diabetes, because of its central role in glucose homeostasis in the pancreas and the liver¹. The first report of a potent glucokinase activator (GKA) was published in 2003, and was followed by more than 150 patents and considerable attention by the pharmaceutical industry^{2,3}. Progress has been hampered by predictable adverse effects that were noted in early clinical studies; however, some have persevered, leveraging medicinal chemistry to engineer away adverse features. In this issue of *Nature Reviews Diabetes & Endocrinology*, Klein and Buse⁴ discuss the potential of a new class of GKA, dorzagliatin, for the treatment of type 2 diabetes. The authors highlight the features of dorzagliatin that may influence future patient selection and treatment paradigms.

First-In-Class Antidiabetic Drug

Core
• No weight gain
• Sustainable efficacy

Unknowns
• Cardiovascular benefit? • GI benefit? • Sustained glycemic benefit?

Fig. 1 | Positioning dorzagliatin in future treatment paradigms. Features of dorzagliatin that may influence future patient selection are highlighted.

TIR Algorithm Thesis

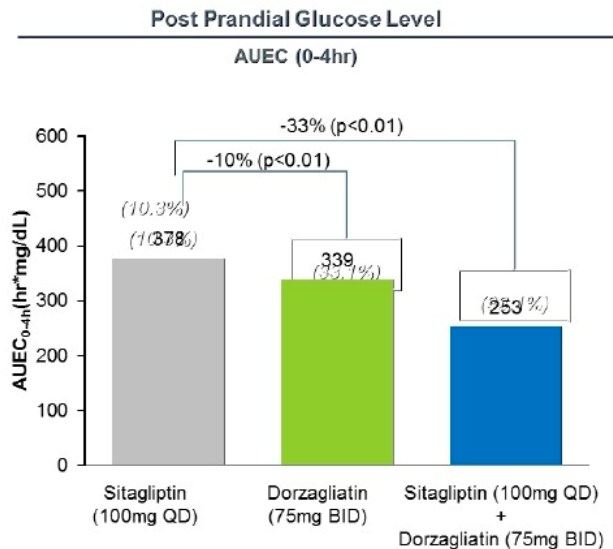
Clinical Expert Consensus

Pharmaceutical Expert Consensus

Successful combination potential with oral anti-diabetes drugs

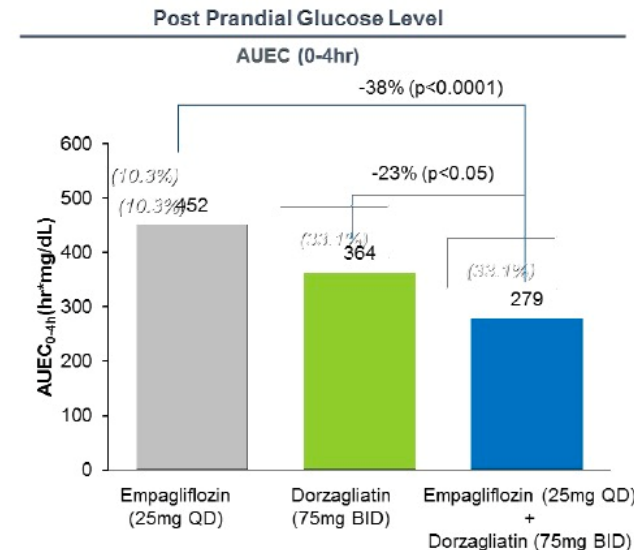


- No drug interaction observed in Phase I trials in US with sitagliptin (DPP-4 inhibitor) and empagliflozin (SGLT-2 inhibitor).
- Significant synergies demonstrated in glycemic control and improvement of beta cell function**
 - Data demonstrating dorzagliatin stimulates GLP-1 release in T2D patients, increasing circulating active GLP-1 when used in combination with sitaglipin.
 - In both trials, the combined use of sitaglipin or empagliflozin in combination with dorzagliatin increases insulin secretion as measured by C-peptide and reduces glucose over using each of the drugs alone.



DPP-4 inhibitor:

- ✓ US\$ 4B global sales in 2019



SGLT-2 inhibitor:

- ✓ Fastest growing among OAD with US\$ 6B global sales in 2019 and ~24% yoy growth

Note: AUC represents area under the curve, while AUEC represents area under the effect curve.

A satellite image of Earth showing a large, swirling cyclone over the Pacific Ocean. The landmasses of North and South America are visible on the right side of the frame. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**Dorzagliatin:
Making
an impact
and going
global**

Dorzagliatin approved and reimbursed in China

Approved and Launched Year-End 2022.

China Reimbursement - Dec 2023.

1. Differentiated MOA on Label:
Improves β -cell function and restores impaired glucose homeostasis.
2. Two Indications. With diet and exercise to treat:
 1. Drug naïve T2D
 2. Metformin tolerated T2D.
3. Three Allowances
 1. No dose adjustment for DKD
 2. No dose adjustment when combined with sitagliptin
 3. No dose adjustment when combined with empagliflozin.



China National Reimbursement Since Dec 2023

RMB 5.39 / tablet = RMB 10.78 daily
 (~USD \$1.54 daily = USD \$46.20 monthly)
80-90% reimbursed by govt. Net monthly patient cost ~USD \$9.24 – USD\$ 4.62.

Bayer Healthcare is the exclusive commercial partner in China.

RMB 1.5B (~USD \$214m) cash collected in payments from Bayer.

HuaTangNing (dorzagliatin) sold in hospitals, pharmacies and online with prescription.

Dorzagliatin: Second Generation

Acceleration in technology to advance medicine:

- 4 generations of insulin required ~100 years.
- 4 generations of GLP-1 required less than 20 years.

Advanced 2nd generation of GKA in Phase I in U.S.

- Once a day oral formulation for better homeostasis control.
- New molecular entity with substance patent.
- New formulation with increase MRT of API.
- Broaden the therapeutic indication in diabetes, obesity, NASH, DKD.
- FDA accepted IND application in Dec. 2023.
- Safety trial to support IND underway.



Hua Medicine: Global First-in-Class Diabetes Care

Hua Medicine



Li Chen
CEO & CSO

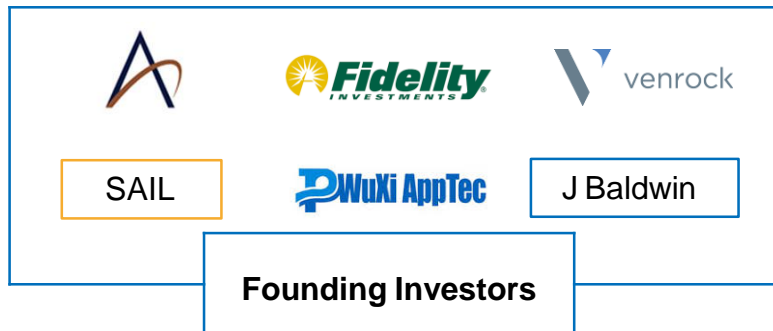


Bob Nelsen
Chairman



China-Based First-In-Class

- **International Collaboration**
 - Roche (Switzerland) – in-licensed dorzagliatin & founding scientific team
 - US VC Series A funding
 - China clinical research & POC
 - Commercial partnership in China with Bayer (German)
- **Advancing Meaningful Diabetes Treatment** from targeting symptoms of Type 2 diabetes (leading to improved treatment of chronic disease) to addressing root cause of Type 2 diabetes (leading to a potential cure)
- **First Novel Concept** addressing impaired glucose sensor function - the underlying cause of T2D
- Scientific POC validated in China; Commercial POC and RWE in China expected in next 3-5 years
- Publicly listed on Stock Exchange of Hong Kong under ticker: 2552
- Cash balance as of Dec 31, 2023, of RMB 1.4 billion (USD \$200m)





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*A China-Based First-in-Class
Biotechnology Company
Focused on Unmet Medical Needs*