

## Innovative dermal PK and PD

In-vivo proof of mechanism for clinical dermal bioequivalence using OFM

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# Content

2

## I. Introduction

- ✓ Open Flow Microperfusion

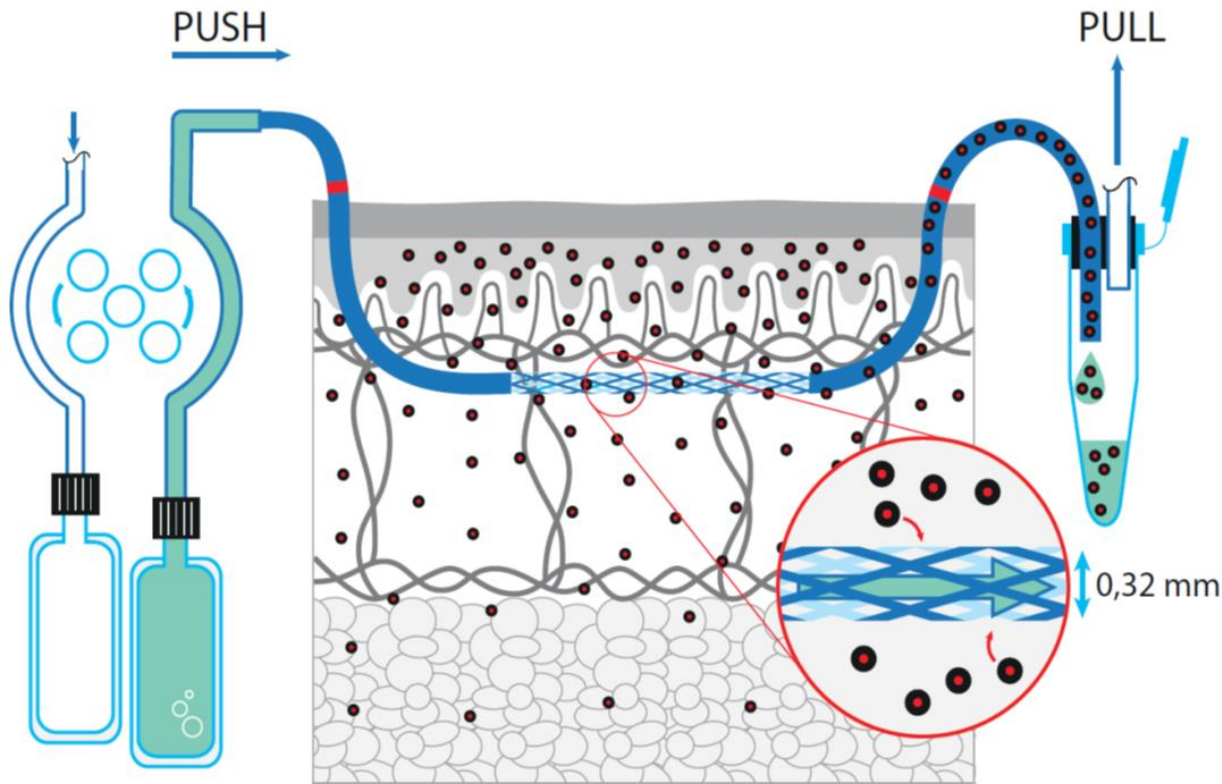
## II. How dOFM can speed up your drug development process

- ✓ Investigation of API stability and metabolism in „pure“ dermal ISF
- ✓ Investigation of API stability and metabolism of your API in the dermis → Ex-Vivo Model (NCE)
- ✓ Pre-clinical proof of mechanism for your API → Psoriasis Rat Model
- ✓ In-vivo PK and PD → Clinical Study (Secukinumab®)
- ✓ Bioequivalence → Clinical Study (Acyclovir)

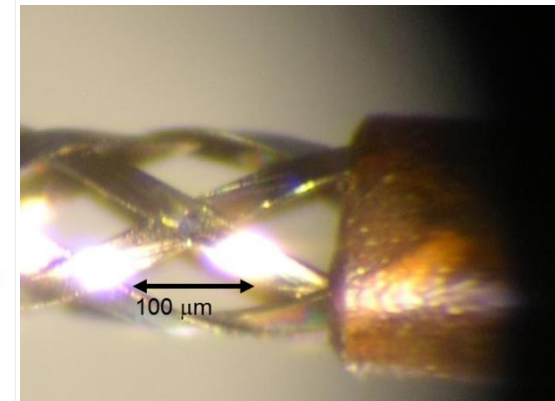
## III. HEALTH – the scientific “one-stop-shop”

# Open Flow Microperfusion

3



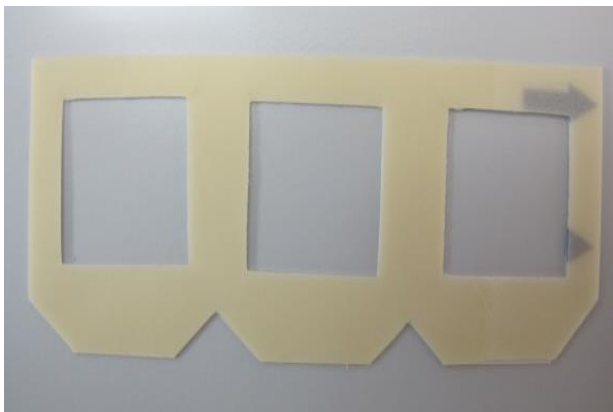
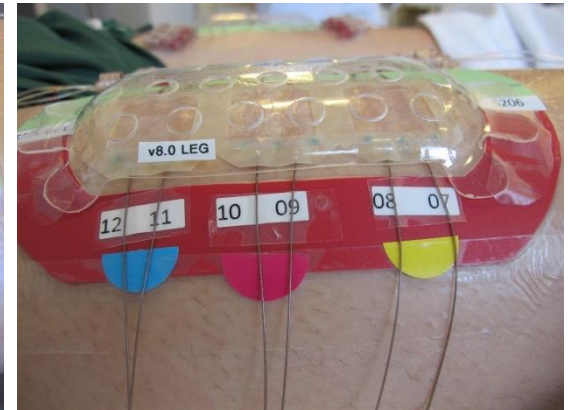
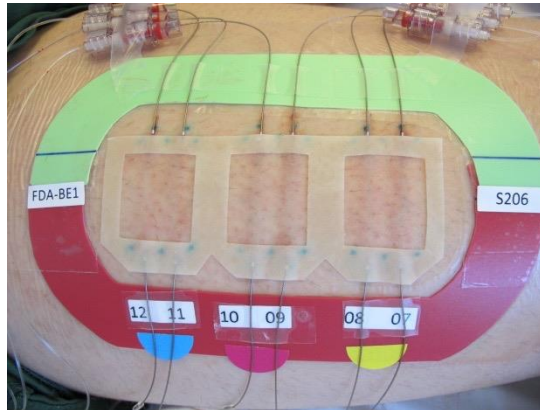
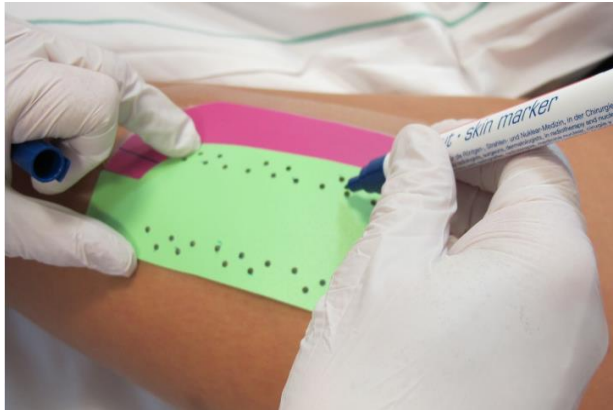
CE certified for clinical use



**OFM samples represent diluted but unfiltered interstitial fluid**

# dOFM *set-up*

4



**All procedures are highly standardized**

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5

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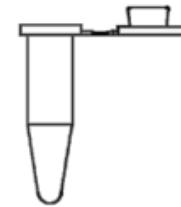
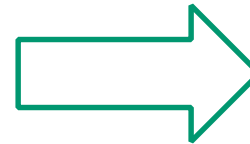
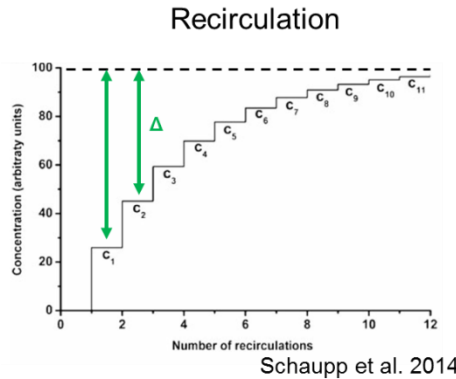
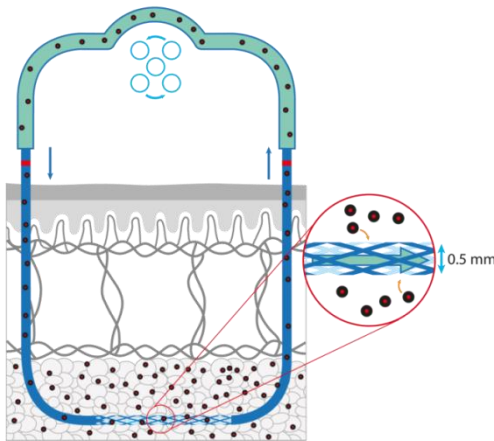
## III. HEALTH – the scientific “one-stop-shop”

# „pure“ Interstitial Fluid

*Investigate your API in a realistic matrix*

6

OFM recirculation is used to achieve an equilibrium between perfusate and interstitium.



„pure“ ISF

stability investigation

metabolism investigation

add API

add API

dialysis

Free fraction

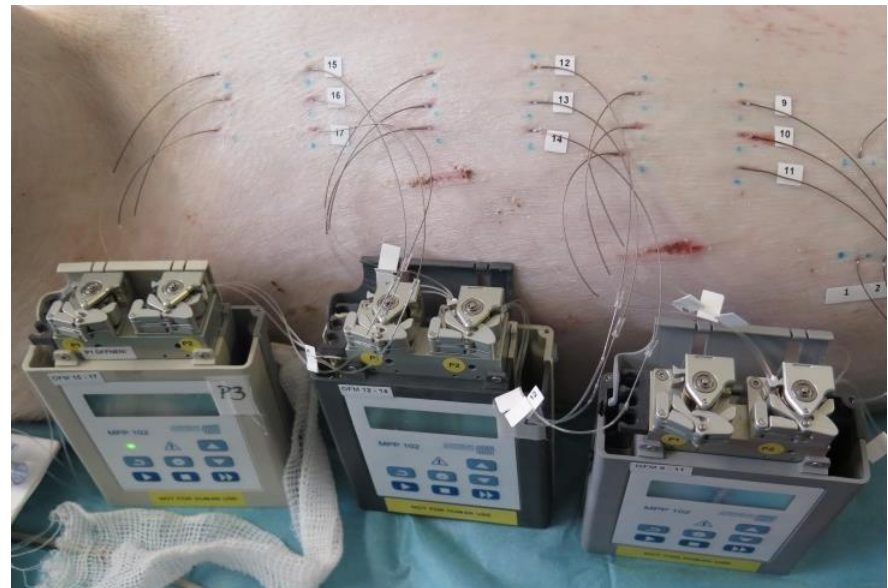
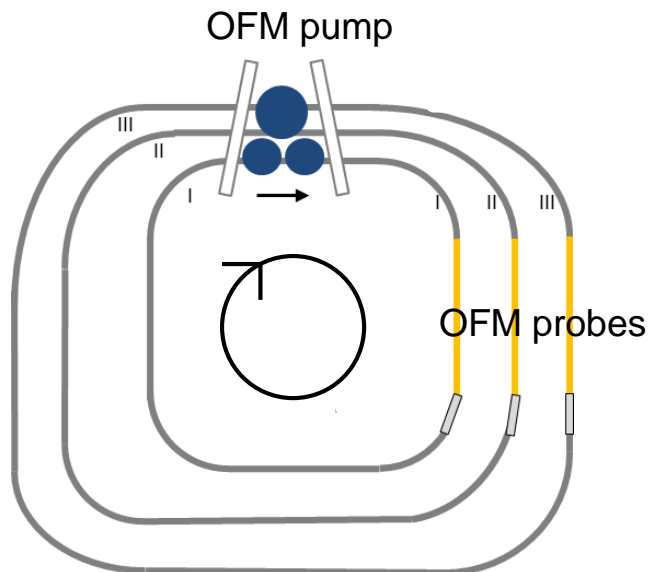
**API stability and degradation used for API design and toxicity**

# „pure“ Interstitial Fluid

*Investigate your API in a realistic matrix*

7

Recirculation of physiological saline in the anesthetized enabled sampling of „pure“ interstitial fluid (ISF) in pigs

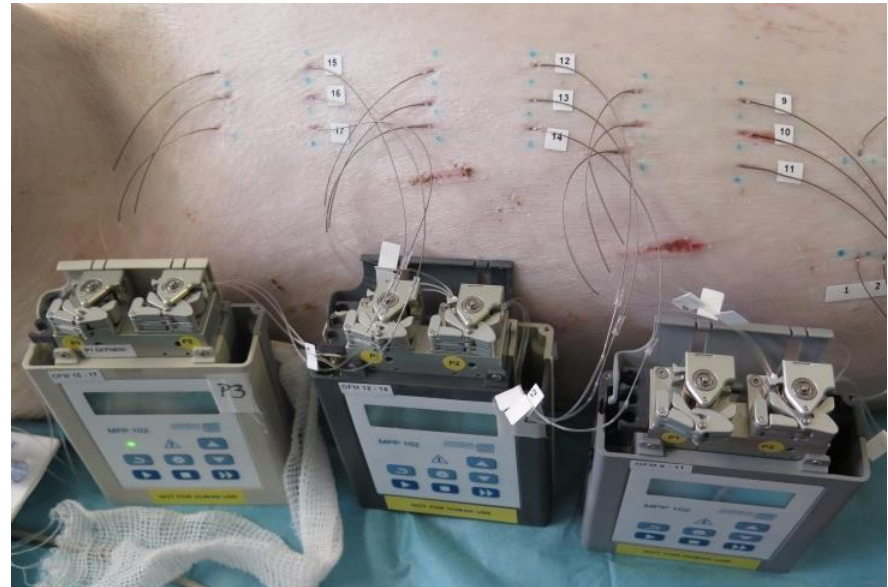
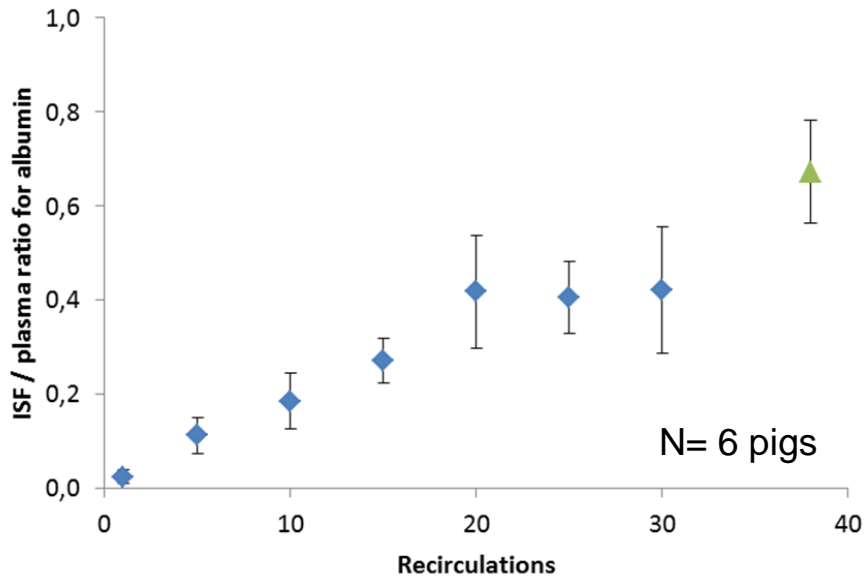


# „pure“ Interstitial Fluid

*Investigate your API in a realistic matrix*

8

- 20 recirculations are sufficient to achieve plateau phase for albumin
- Lymph showed higher albumin concentration than „pure“ ISF  
 → Lymph represents a different compartement than interstitium



**Recirculation-OFM is able to sample “pure” ISF**



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9

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## III. HEALTH – the scientific “one-stop-shop”

# Prediction of Drug Effect

## skin penetration and dermal metabolism

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### Case Study (Leo Pharma)<sup>1</sup>

AIM: Development of a topical drug for AD treatment which has

- high dermal API levels for drug effect (>EC<sub>50</sub>) and
- low systemic effect to reduce side effects (high systemic clearance)

➔ **PDE4 inhibitors with high in vivo clearance and adequate skin stability**

API candidates:

- A: low Mw, LogD ~3, human unbound fraction ~2%, *in vitro* skin model: stable, EC<sub>50</sub>\* ~80nM, ....
- B: low Mw, LogD ~3, human unbound fraction ~5%, *in vitro* skin model: stable, EC<sub>50</sub>\* ~60nM, ...

➔ **Both compounds show in-vitro activity and were selected for clinical development**

\*EC<sub>50</sub> is based on in vitro inhibition of LPS induced TNF $\alpha$  release from human PBMCs

<sup>1</sup> unpublished results: from Leo Pharma: Maja Lambert, Stefan Eirefeldt, Fredrik Johansson, Line Hollesen Basse, Malene Bertelsen, Jens Larsen, Simon Feldbæk Nielsen

# Prediction of Drug Effect

## skin penetration and dermal metabolism

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11

### Case Study (Leo Pharma)<sup>1</sup>

#### Ex-Vivo Human Skin Punch Biopsies

- A: [API] > factor 10 higher than EC50
- B: [API] > factor 100 higher than EC50

➔ **Both compounds are good candidates for clinical evaluation**

#### Clinical Trial

- A demonstrated clinical efficacy in AD patients (phase 2) in a 4 wk proof of concept study with twice daily dermal application of a cream formulation in different strengths of the cream vehicle and Elidel cream. Biopsy concentrations were determined at 10  $\mu$ M.
- B showed no difference to cream vehicle in a clinical study with AD patients 3 wk with twice daily dermal application of cream formulation compared to cream vehicle. Biopsy concentrations were determined at 6  $\mu$ M.

➔ **Punch biopsies revealed API concentration well over EC50 but B showed no treatment effect.**

<sup>1</sup> unpublished results: from Leo Pharma: Maja Lambert, Stefan Eirefeldt, Fredrik Johansson, Line Hollesen Basse, Malene Bertelsen, Jens Larsen, Simon Feldbæk Nielsen

# Prediction of Drug Effect

## skin penetration and dermal metabolism

12

### Case Study (Leo Pharma)<sup>1</sup>

#### Ex-Vivo Fresh Human Skin OFM Model

- Determination of 24 hour dermal concentration profile for API
- ➔ Elimination of punch biopsy contamination due to remaining drug at SC
- ➔ Focus on the relevant compartment ➔ **DERMIS** to reflect effective API concentration

#### RESULTS

- A: [API] more than 10 fold lower compared to biopsies but higher than EC50
- B: [API] more than 10 fold **lower** compared to biopsies and below EC50

**OFM allows a realistic determination of API PK profiles to predict clinical efficacy, essential in the absence of reliable biomarker**

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13

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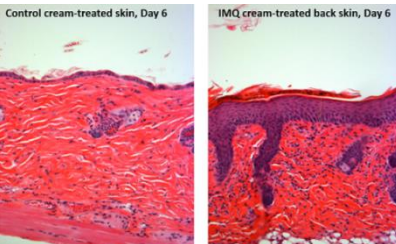
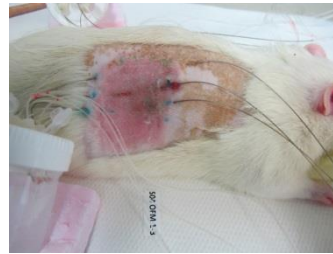
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## III. HEALTH – the scientific “one-stop-shop”

# Preclinical Proof of Concept mode of action of your API in-vivo

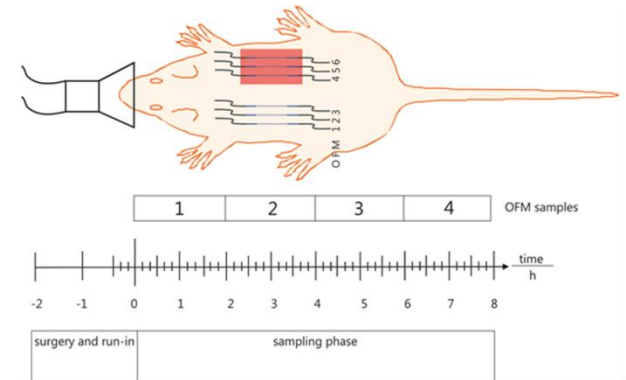
## Case Study (undisclosed sponsor)<sup>2</sup>



Dermal API PK for dose-response

Dermal PD effect on cytokine level

Dermal PD on immune cell level



HPLC-MS/MS

OLINK

FACS

**In-vivo effect of API on cytokine and immune cell level**

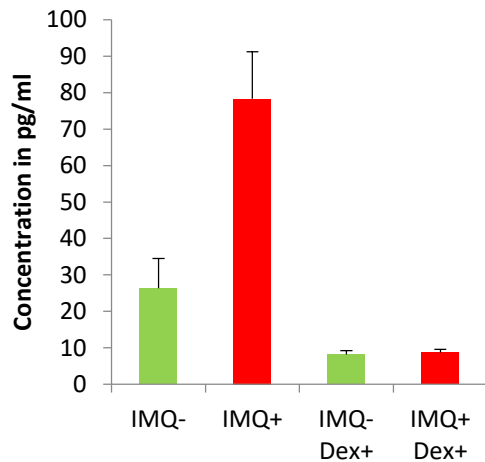
# Preclinical Proof of Concept mode of action of your API in-vivo

## Case Study (undisclosed sponsor)<sup>2</sup>

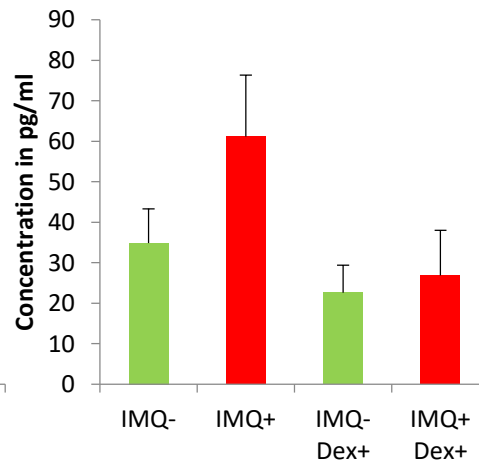
rats	Topical treatment	Inhibition treatment	Label
S01-S06	Untreated	Untreated	IMQ-
S01-S06	IMQ8d	Untreated	IMQ+
S07-S12	Untreated	Dex2mg	IMQ- Dex+
S07-S12	IMQ8d	Dex2mg	IMQ+ Dex+

<sup>2</sup> unpublished results

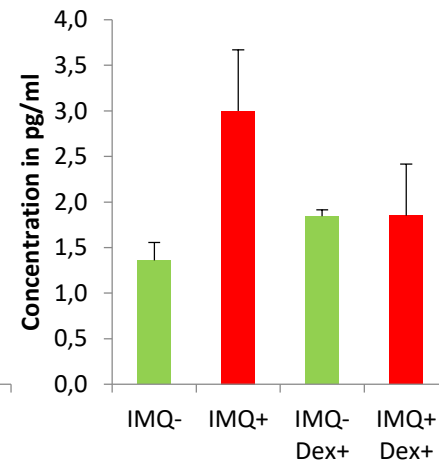
### IL10



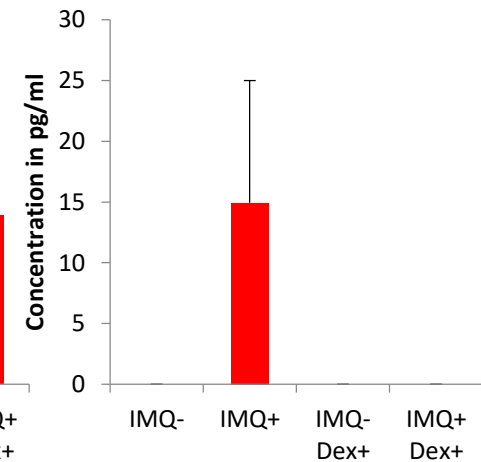
### TNF $\alpha$



### IL17F

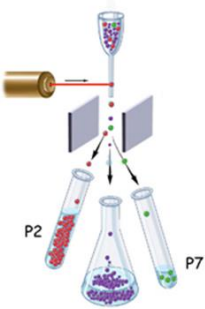


### IL17A

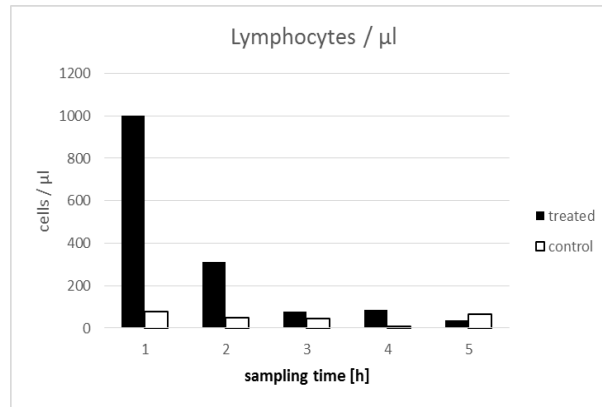
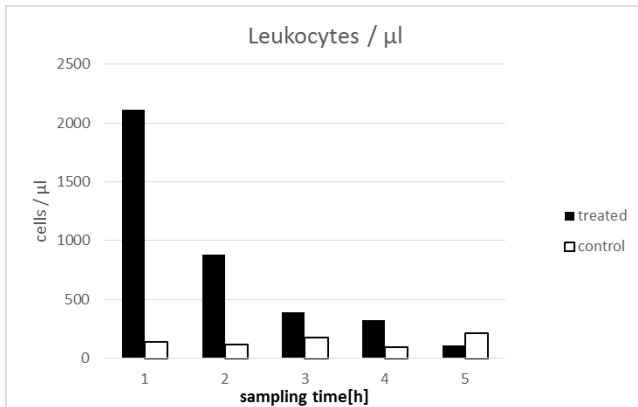


Data are mean  $\pm$ SE, n=6; 8 days of treatment

**IMQ-Rat Model is an in vivo model for psoriatic inflammation**

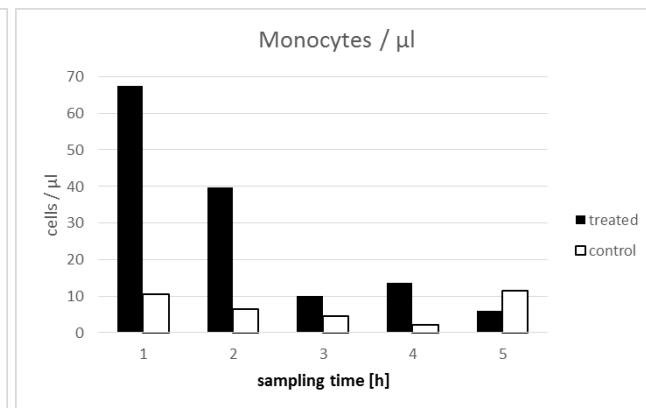
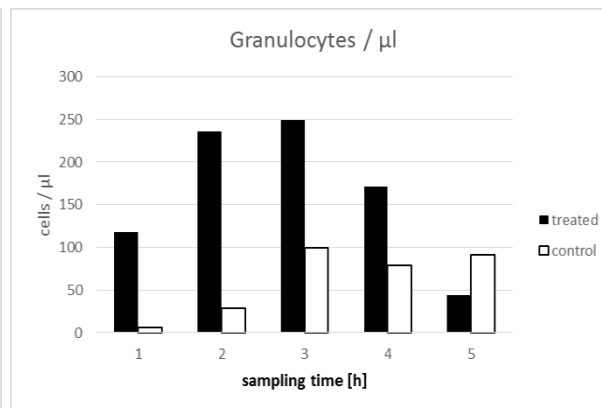
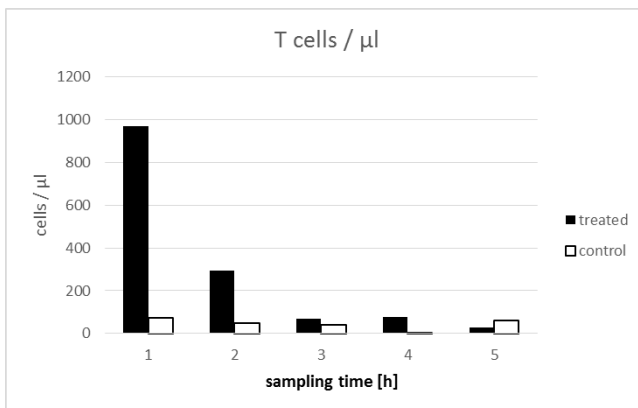


# Preclinical Proof of Concept mode of action of your API in-vivo



<sup>2</sup> unpublished results

■ lesional  
□ control



**This psoriasis animal model allows for PK and PD investigations**



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17

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- ✓ Bioequivalence → Clinical Study (Acyclovir)

## III. HEALTH – the scientific “one-stop-shop”

## *PK/PD of an Antibody Drug: Case Study Secukinumab*

18

### Background and Objectives

- Secukinumab, a fully human monoclonal antibody that selectively targets IL-17A, has demonstrated efficacy in phase 3 trials, within 16 weeks of initiation of treatment.
- The objective of this exploratory, single-center, open-label study (NCT01539213) was to further characterize the mechanism of action of secukinumab in the skin in
  - 8 healthy volunteers (Part 1)
  - 8 plaque psoriasis patients (Part 2)
- OFM was performed on Day 1, 8 and 15 in Part 1 and 2

## *PK/PD of an Antibody-Drug: Case Study Secukinumab*

19

### Primary Aim

- Absolute quantification of Secukinumab in the dermis of healthy volunteers and psoriatic patients

### Secondary Aims

- Investigate that postulated signaling pathways are different in healthy and psoriatic patients in dermis - IL17a pathway
- Investigate postulated mode of action -down stream IL17a marker
- Investigate drug effect on a protein level - mediator for keratinocyte proliferation and angiogenesis and keratinocyte mobility

# OFM

## *PK of an Antibody-Drug: Case Study Secukinumab*

20

**Primary Aim:** Absolute quantification of secukinumab in the dermis of healthy volunteers and psoriasis patients

### Serum and Dermal Secukinumab Levels ( $\mu\text{g/mL}$ , mean $\pm$ SD)

#### Healthy Volunteers (n = 8)

Serum		Dermal ISF <sup>a,b</sup>		Skin biopsy <sup>c</sup>	Blister fluid
Day 8	Day 15	Day 8	Day 15	Day 15	Day 15
36.1 $\pm$ 10.5	35.0 $\pm$ 10.5	7.76 $\pm$ 1.30	8.02 $\pm$ 3.23	10.40 $\pm$ 3.97	6.89 $\pm$ 2.26

**Dermal ISF concentrations ~22% of serum**

**Dermal concentration by OFM, blister fluid, biopsies are comparable.**

## *PK of an Antibody-Drug: Case Study Secukinumab*

21

Primary Aim: Absolute quantification of Secukinumab in dermis in healthy volunteers and psoriatic patients

### Serum and Dermal Secukinumab Levels ( $\mu\text{g/mL}$ , mean $\pm$ SD)

Psoriatic Subjects (n = 8)

Serum		Dermal ISF <sup>a,b</sup>			
Day 8	Day 15	Day 8		Day 15	
		L	NL	L	NL
21.1 $\pm$ 4.3	21.2 $\pm$ 4.9	6.76 $\pm$ 2.68	8.34 $\pm$ 3.35	5.65 $\pm$ 1.80	6.39 $\pm$ 3.35

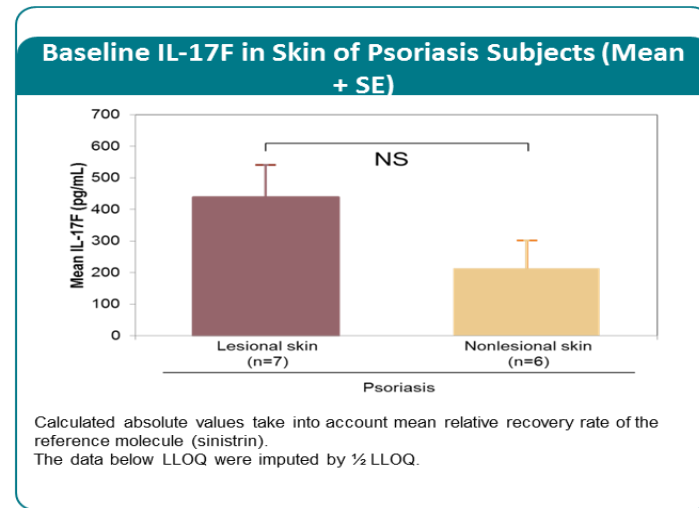
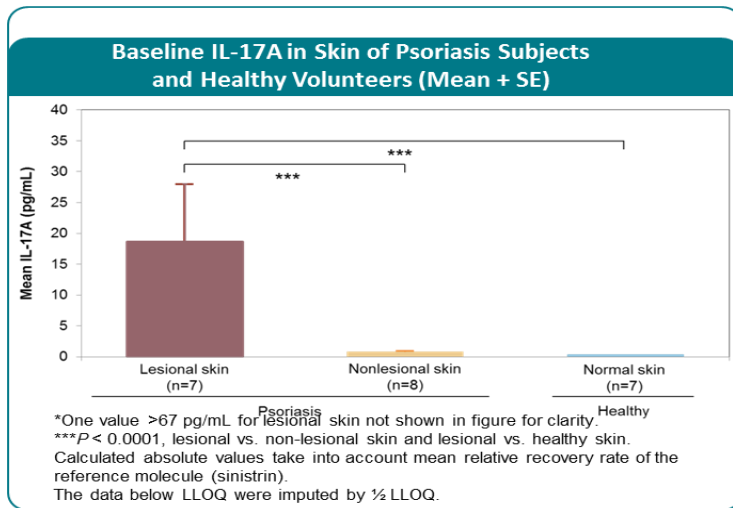
**Dermal ISF concentrations are 28-39% of serum concentration.  
Dermal ISF concentrations on day 8 and day 15 are similar.**

# OFM

## PD of an Antibody-Drug: Case Study Secukinumab

22

Secondary Aim: Investigate that postulated signaling pathways are different in healthy volunteers and psoriatic patients in dermis - IL17a pathway



**IL-17A, but not IL-17F, is significantly higher in psoriatic lesional skin compared with non-lesional skin or skin of healthy volunteers**

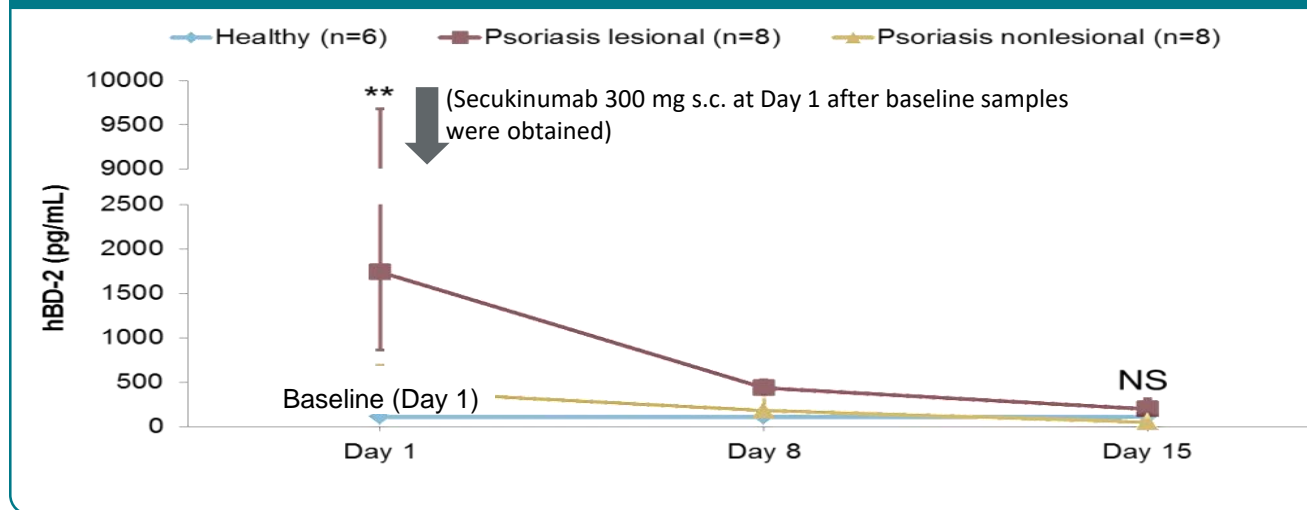
# OFM

## *PD of an Antibody-Drug: Case Study Secukinumab*

23

Secondary aim: Investigate postulated mode of action - downstream IL17a marker

### Skin $\beta$ -Defensin-2 in Psoriasis Subjects and Healthy Volunteers



**$\beta$ -defensin-2 protein levels are elevated in psoriatic lesional skin and serum and decrease rapidly in response to secukinumab treatment**

## *PK/PD of an Antibody-Drug: Case Study Secukinumab*

24

### Conclusions on Pharmacokinetics

- Substantial levels of secukinumab are observed in skin suggesting the potential for local action.
- Secukinumab ISF distribution into psoriasis lesional and non-lesional skin is similar and is higher than ISF distribution in healthy control skin.

### Conclusions on Pharmacodynamics

- Key molecular factors and processes implicated in the pathophysiology of psoriasis were positively impacted in psoriatic skin within 7 days of treatment.
- Secukinumab concentration in skin is sufficient to neutralize IL-17a in psoriatic skin
- Secukinumab affected the expression of a number of pro-inflammatory cytokine



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25

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## III. HEALTH – the scientific “one-stop-shop”

# Bioequivalence

*FDA Project*

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## NOVEL METHODOLOGIES AND IVIVC APPROACHES TO ASSESS BIOEQUIVALENCE OF TOPICAL DRUGS

FDA grant: 1U01 FD004946-01

Institute for Biomedicine and Health Sciences  
JOANNEUM RESEARCH

Principal Investigator: **Frank Sinner**

Project leader: **Manfred Bodenlenz** and **Katrin Tiffner**

Funding for this project was made possible, in part, by the Food and Drug Administration through grant U01FD004946-01. The views expressed in this abstract do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Food and Drug Administration, the Department of Health and Human Services; nor does any mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organization imply endorsement by the United States Government.

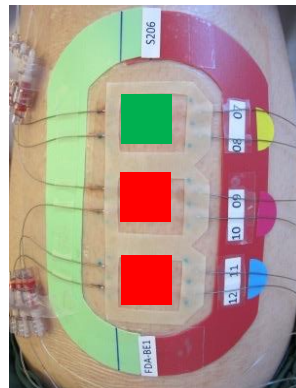
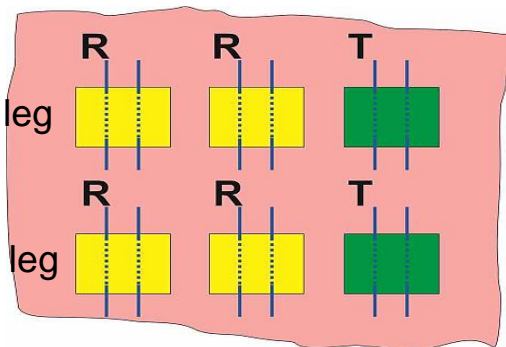
# Bioequivalence *Clinical Study*

27

Overall AIM: Investigate the possibility of dOFM to address BE and non-BE of topical formulations in vivo and ex-vivo

Overview Clinical Studies:

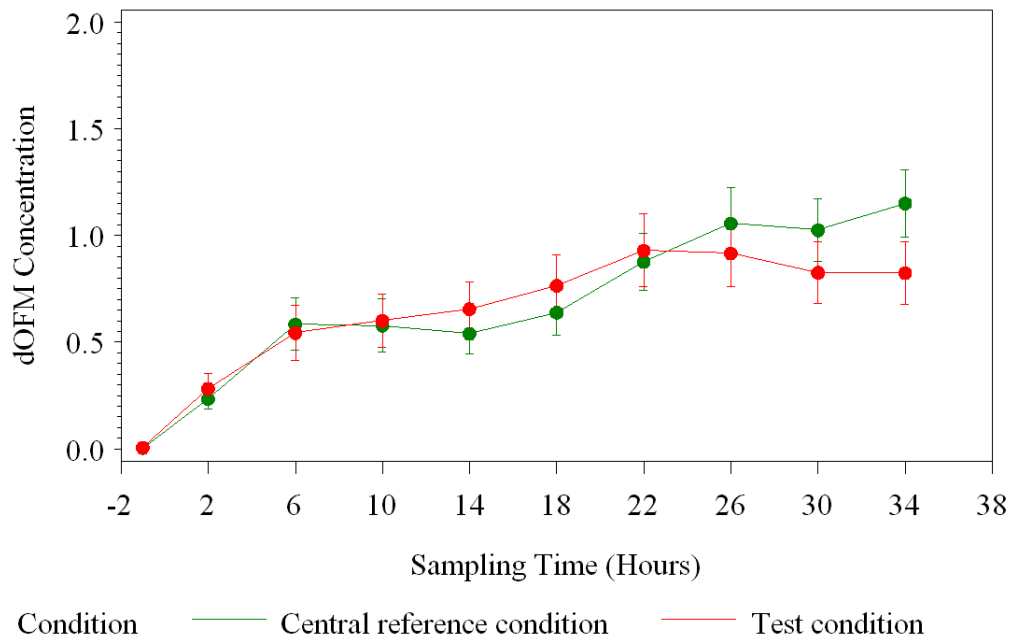
- BE Study in 20 healthy subjects



# Clinical Bioavailability *Test versus Reference*

28

**dOFM acyclovir concentrations as a function of time**  
Mean +/- SE (across all limbs)



**Bioavailability:** AUC of Aciclovir A1 are highly reproducible  
AUC of Zovirax US are highly reproducible

# Clinical Bioavailability *Test versus Reference*

29

Outcome variable	CI <sub>90%</sub>	BE-limits	CI <sub>90%</sub> within BE-limits
log(AUC <sub>0-36h</sub> )	[-0.369 ; 0.050] or [69.1 % ; 105.2 %]	[-0.223 ; 0.223]	x Failed
log(C <sub>max</sub> )	[-0.498 ; 0.022] or [60.8 % ; 102.2%]	[80% ; 125%]	x Failed

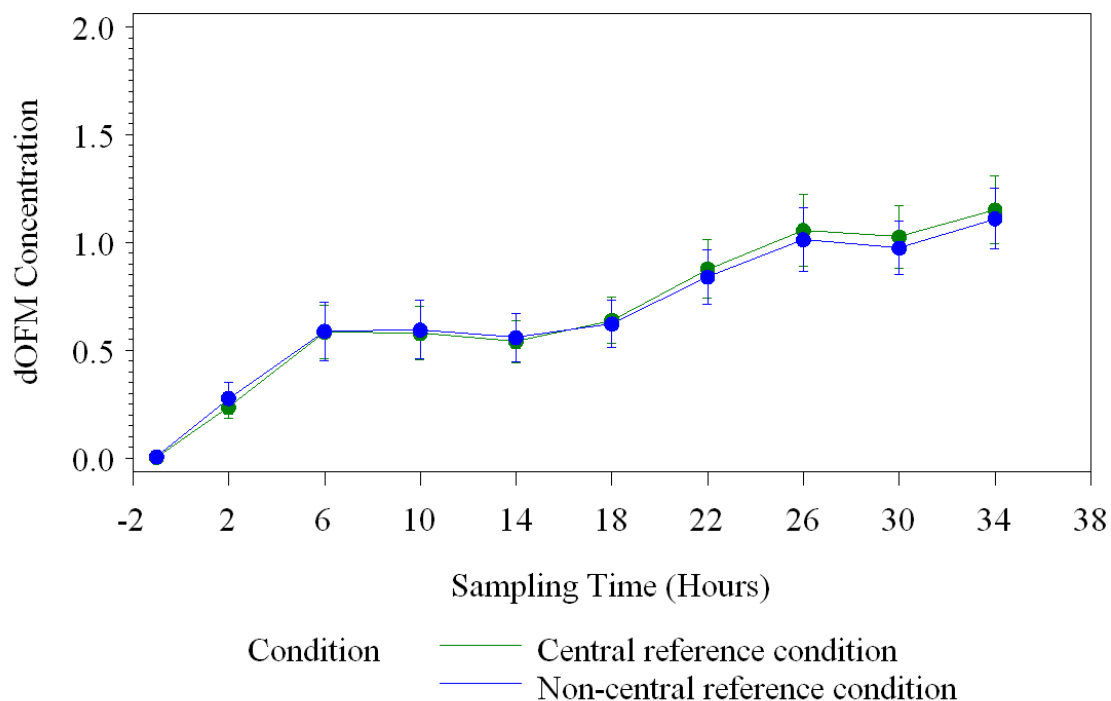
BA is tested for the difference of the log-transformed outcome variables (AUC, C<sub>max</sub>) between test and reference condition

BA is established if CI<sub>90%</sub> falls within the limits of  $\log(0.8)=-0.223$  and  $\log(1.25)=0.223$  (cf. FDA Guidance For Industry)

**Bioavailability: BA is different for A1 vs Zovirax US based on AUC**  
**BA is different for A1 vs Zovirax US based on Cmax**

# Clinical Bioavailability *Reference versus Reference*

**dOFM acyclovir concentrations as a function of time**  
Mean  $\pm$  SE (across all limbs)



**Bioavailability: AUC and Cmax of Zoriox US are highly reproducible**

# Clinical Bioavailability *Reference versus Reference*

31

Outcome variable	CI <sub>90%</sub>	BE-limits	CI <sub>90%</sub> within BE-limits
log(AUC <sub>0-36h</sub> )	[-0.148 ; 0.162] or [86.2 % ; 117.5 %]	[-0.223 ; 0.223] or [80% ; 125%]	<b>passed</b>
log(C <sub>max</sub> )	[-0.155 ; 0.190] or [85.7 % ; 120.9%]		<b>passed</b>

BA is tested for the difference of the log-transformed outcome variables (AUC, C<sub>max</sub>) between the two reference conditions

BA is established if CI<sub>90%</sub> falls within the limits of log(0.8)=-0.223 and log(1.25)=0.223 (cf. FDA Guidance For Industry)

**Bioavailability: Same BA for Zovirax US vs Zovirax US based on AUC  
Same BA for Zovirax US vs Zovirax US based on Cmax**

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32

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## III. HEALTH – the scientific “one-stop-shop”





# Close Cooperation

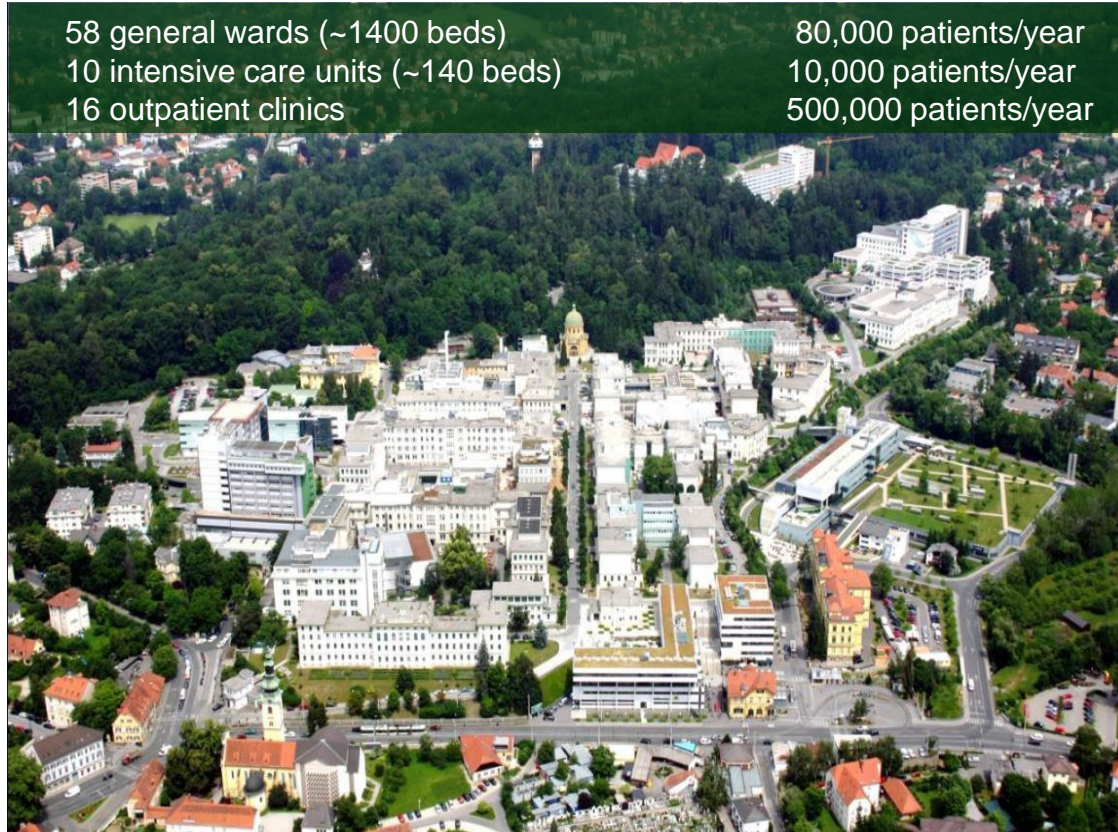
## *Joanneum Research - Medical University of Graz*

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33

58 general wards (~1400 beds)  
10 intensive care units (~140 beds)  
16 outpatient clinics

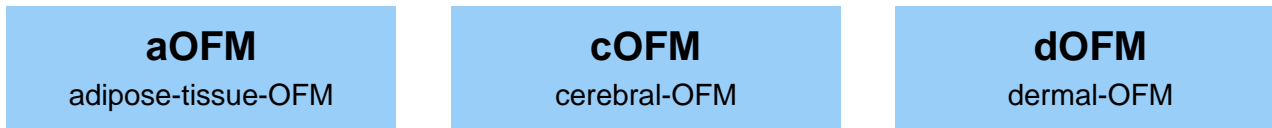
80,000 patients/year  
10,000 patients/year  
500,000 patients/year





# One-Stop-Shop for tissue specific PK and PD

34



# Preclinical facilities

*Mice, rats, rabbits, pigs, sheep*

35



# Clinical Facilities

## *Phase 1-2*

36

- Fully equipped clinical trial center with 12 beds
  - Study performance according to GCP
  - Located at the Medical University of Graz



# Thank you for your attention

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**Case Study Leo Pharma:** Two papers in preparation. Submission planned for second half of 2017

**Case Study Secukinumab:**

- 1) Secukinumab distributes into dermal interstitial fluid of psoriasis patients as demonstrated by open flow microperfusion.  
***Exp Dermatol.** 2016 Feb;25(2):157-9; doi: 10.1111/exd.12863. Epub 2015 Nov 23.*
- 2)  $\beta$ -Defensin 2 is a responsive biomarker of IL-17A-driven skin pathology in patients with psoriasis.  
***J Allergy Clin Immunol.** 2017; 139(3):923-932*
- 3) Secukinumab treatment rapidly leads to positive proteomic and transcriptional changes in psoriatic skin  
*J. Dermatol. Science, 2016, Volume 84, Issue 1*

**Case Study Bioequivalence:**

- 4) Open Flow Microperfusion as a Dermal Pharmacokinetic Approach to Evaluate Topical Bioequivalence.  
***Clin Pharmacokinet.** 2017 Jan;56(1):91-98. doi: 10.1007/s40262-016-0442-z.*