### Visualizing the Future

Advances in IL-23-Targeted Therapies in the Treatment of IBD

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Evaluate the role of various proinflammatory cytokines in driving inflammation in the pathogenesis of IBD

#### LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Identify the role of the IL-23/Th17 inflammatory axis in IBD pathogenesis

LEARNING OBJECTIVE Assess the potential clinical implications of the ability of anti-IL-23 agents used in the treatment of IBD to bind to CD64 receptors on IL-23-producing cells



#### Audience Response - Icebreaker

### What is the most difficult aspect of patient care for IBD? (pick your top 3)

- A. Knowledge of drugs
- B. Prior authorizations
- C. Drug positioning
- D. Loss of response
- E. Lack of time with patients
- F. Staffing challenges



# What is the most difficult aspect of patient care for IBD?



# Section

## Overview of the IL-23/Th17 Pathway in the Pathogenesis of IBD

Jessica R. Allegretti, MD, MPH, FACG, AGAF

#### IBD Pathogenesis

#### **Genetics**

IGRM

• LRRK2

• NOD<sub>2</sub>

• IBD5

IL23R

- others
- ATG16L1

#### **Environment**

- Diet
- Lifestyle
- Smoking
- Stress
- Drugs

- Antibiotics
- Infection
- Latitude
- Others
- Druge



#### **Immunology**

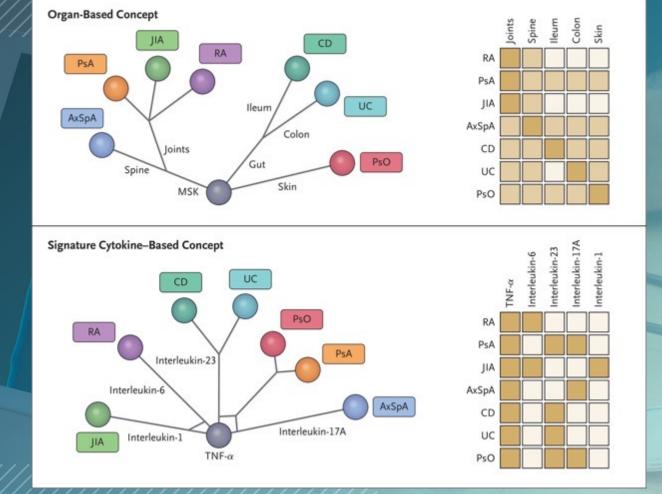
- Immune dysregulation
- Impaired epithelial barrier function
- Defective autophagy
- Skewed lymphocyte populations
- Altered cytokine production

#### **Gut Microbiome**

- † Enterobacteriaceae
- Pasteurellaceae
- Veillonellaceae
- Fusobacteriaceae
- Erysipelotrichales
- Bacteroidetes
- ◆ Clostridioides



Cytokine
Connections
in ImmuneMediated
Inflammatory
Diseases

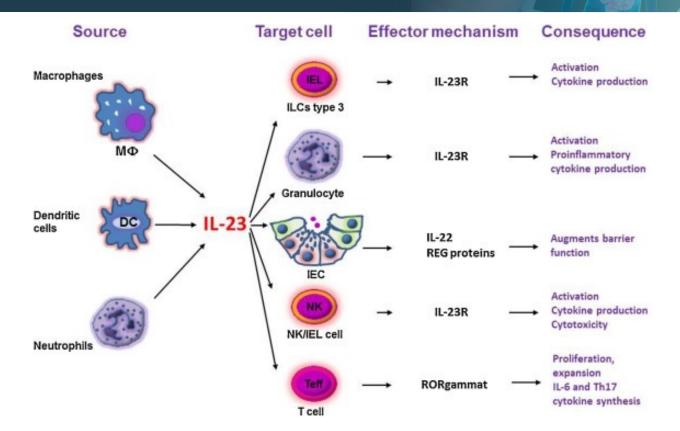


#### Why Target IL-23 in IBD?

- Inhibition of IL-23 decreases mucosal inflammation and improves epithelial barrier integrity
- Inhibiting IL-23 suppresses gut inflammation in T-cellmediated colitis
- Anti-IL-23 therapy preserves protective IL-17 gut functions
  - Animal models of IL-17 blockade in colitis had mixed results
  - Trials of anti-IL-17A/IL-17A receptor antagonists in IBD resulted in worse outcomes vs placebo

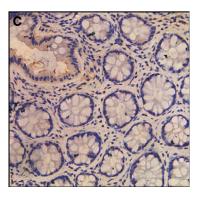


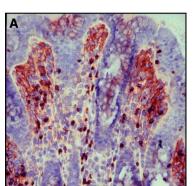
#### Sources of IL-23 in IBD

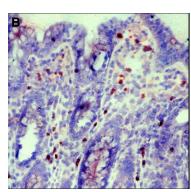




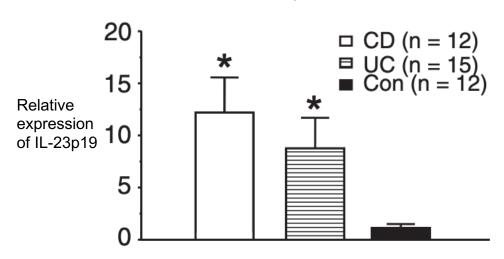
#### IL-23p19 is Highly Expressed in Inflamed Mucosa of IBD







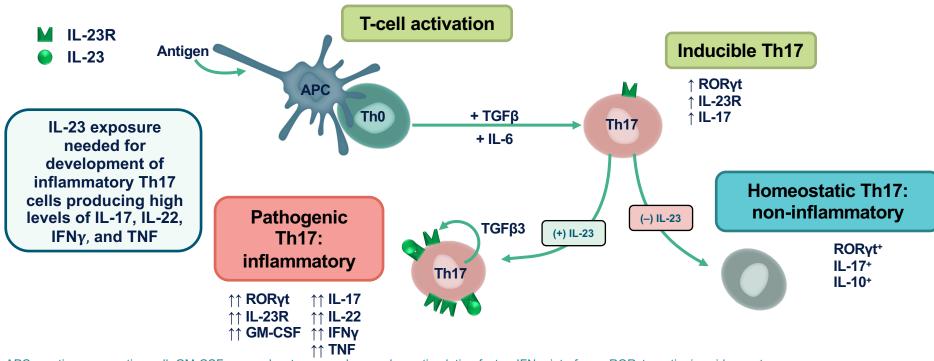
mRNA levels of IL-23p19 in intestinal mucosa





\*P < 0.05 versus control; Con = control Liu Z, et al. *J Leukoc Biol.* 2011;89(4):597-606.

### IL-23 Drives Development of Inflammatory Pathogenic Th17 Cells



APC = antigen-presenting cell; GM-CSF = granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor; IFN = interferon; RORγt = retinoic acid receptor-related orphan receptor γt; TGF = transforming growth factor.

Adapted from Zúñiga LA, et al. *Immunol Rev.* 2013;252(1):78–88. Gaffen SL, et al. *Nat Rev Immunol.* 2014;14(9):585–600. Schmitt H, et al. *Front Immunol.* 2021;12:622934.



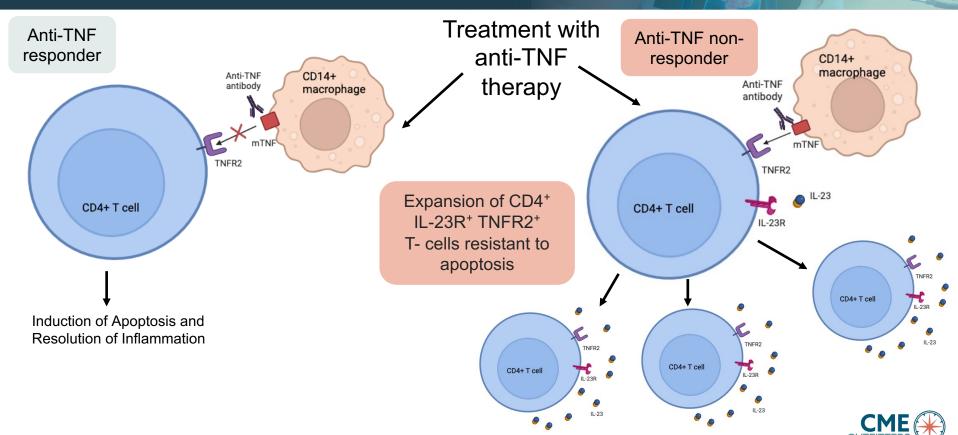
#### Audience Response

#### Which of the following is a potential cause of anti-TNF non-response in patients with IBD?

- A. Drug interactions between anti-TNF agents and immunomodulators
- B. Heightened production of IL-23 and development of apoptosis resistant T-cells
- C. Down regulation of TNF- $\alpha$  receptors on monocytes
- D. I don't know



#### **IL-23 Mediated Resistance to Anti-TNF**



#### Audience Response

#### Which of the following is a potential cause of anti-TNF non-response in patients with IBD?

- A. Drug interactions between anti-TNF agents and immunomodulators
- B. Heightened production of IL-23 and development of apoptosis resistant T-cells
- C. Down regulation of TNF- $\alpha$  receptors on monocytes



# Final Thoughts: Cytokines and Pathogenesis

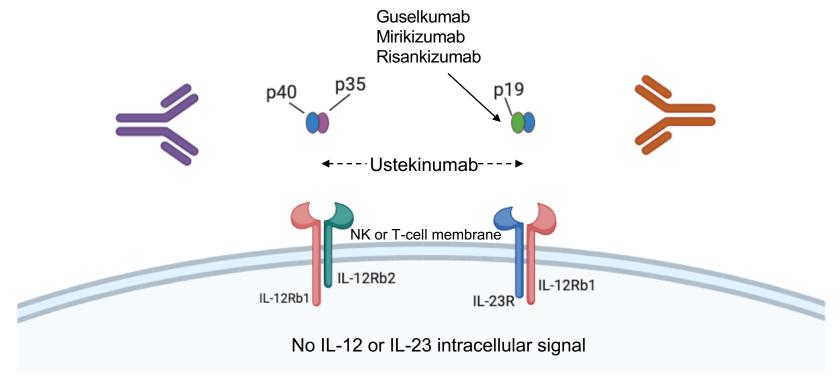


# Section

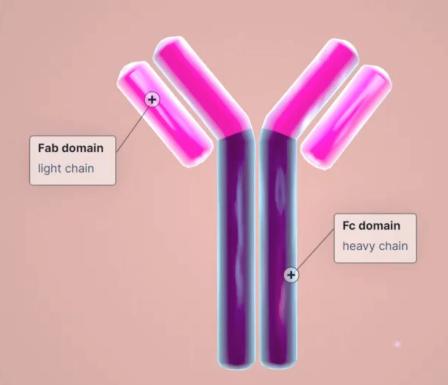
## Enhancing IL-23 Inhibition Why is Targeting CD64+ Cells Important?

Jessica R. Allegretti, MD, MPH, FACG, AGAF

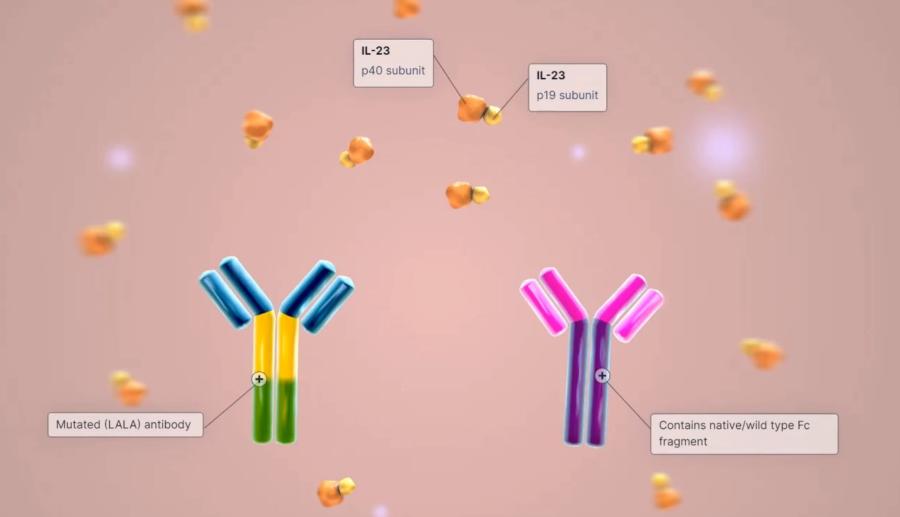
#### Anti-p40 (IL-12/23) and Anti-p19 (IL-23)

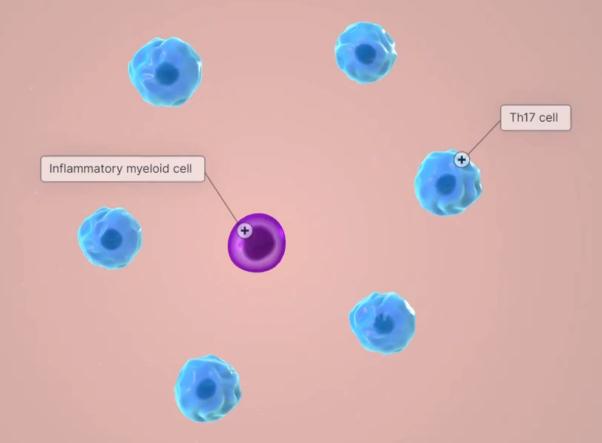






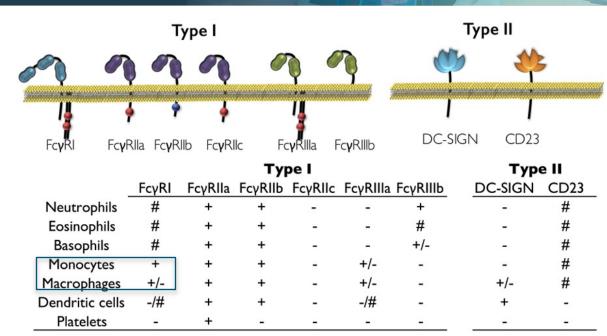






#### What are Fcy receptors and CD64 receptors?

- Fcγ receptors: surface receptors on immune cells that recognize the Fc portion of IgG
- CD64 (FcγRI) is the only Fcγ receptor with high affinity for lgG1

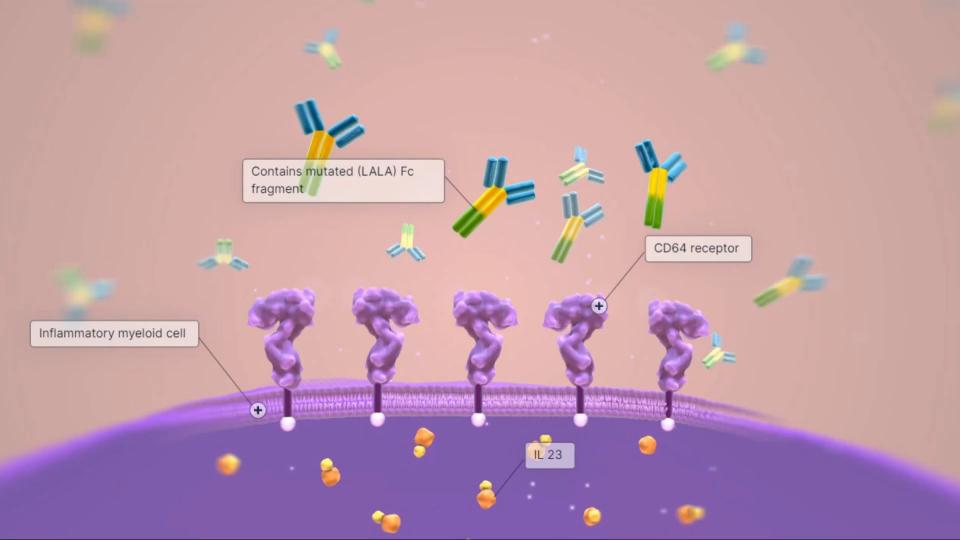


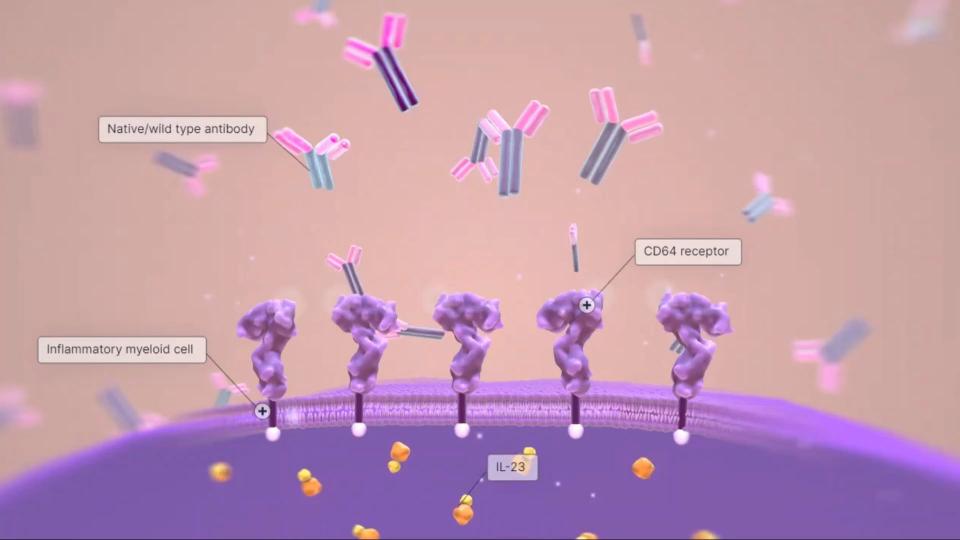
<sup>+</sup> Constitutive expression



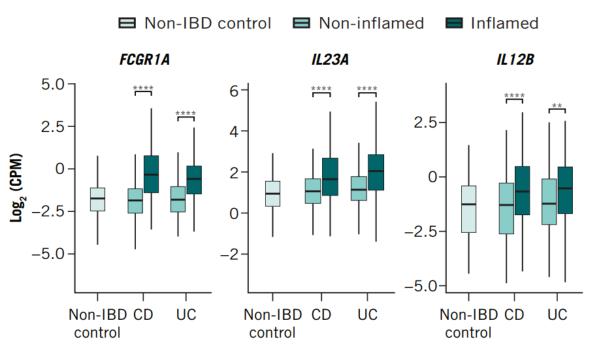
<sup>-</sup> No expression

<sup>#</sup> Inducible expression





#### CD64 Expression in Diseased IBD Tissue



FCGR1A (CD64), IL23A (IL-23p19), and IL12B (IL-23p40) expression were significantly increased in inflamed vs non-inflamed IBD gut biopsies



#### Audience Response

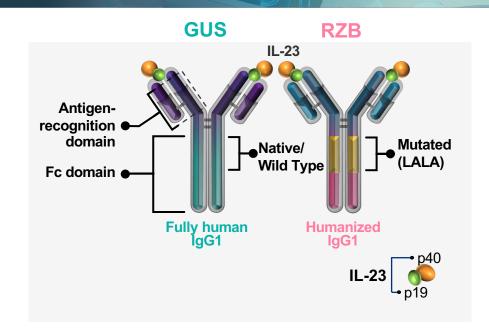
### Which of the following is true regarding binding affinity of IL-23i's to CD64 receptors?

- A. Binding of CD64 occurs with only risankizumab
- B. Binding of CD64 occurs with only guselkumab
- C. Binding of CD64 occurs with only mirikizumab
- D. Binding of CD64 occurs with risankizumab, guselkumab, and mirikizumab
- E. I don't know



### Clinically Relevant Differences Between Anti-IL-23 Therapeutic Antibodies May Be Related to Their Unique Molecular Attributes

- Guselkumab (GUS) and risankizumab (RZB) are mAbs that selectively target the p19 subunit of IL-23
- GUS and RZB have shown efficacy in the treatment of inflammatory bowel diseases\*
- Potential differences in the therapeutic profiles may be related to their unique molecular attributes
- GUS and RZB have differences in the Fc region that affect binding to Fc-gamma receptors



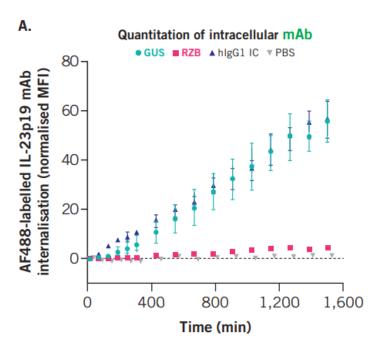
mAb = monoclonal antibody; Fc = fragment crystallizable; LALA = leucine to alanine substitutions at positions 234 and 235; IgG = immunoglobulin G. \*GUS is approved for adult patients with moderate-to-severe plaque psoriasis and active psoriatic arthritis. RZB is approved for adult patients with moderate-to-severe plaque psoriasis, active psoriatic arthritis, and moderately to severely active Crohn's disease.

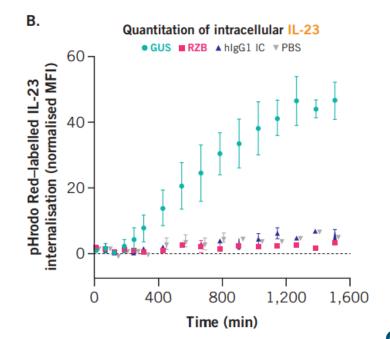
1. D'Haens G, et al. *Lancet*. 2022;399(10340):2015-2030. 2. Ferrante M, et al. *Lancet*. 2022;399(10340):2031-2046. 3. Sandborn WJ, et al. *Gastroenterology*. 2022;162(6):1650-1664. 4. Dignass A, et al. *J Crohns Colitis*. 2022;16(Supplement 1):i025-i026. 5. Louis E, et al. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther*. 2004;19(5):511-519. 6. Vos AC, et al. *Gastroenterology*. 2011;140(1):221-230. 7. Wojtal KA, et al. *PLoS One*. 2012;7(8):e43361.



# In-Vitro Evaluations of CD64 and IL-23 Binding: GUS and RZB

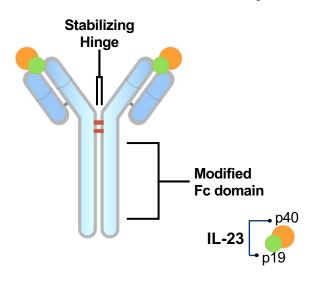
Quantitation of (A) mAb MFI and (B) IL-23 MFI in intracellular compartments of CD64+ inflammatory macrophages following treatment with IL-23p19 mAbs and IL-23





# In-Vitro Evaluations of CD64 and IL-23 Binding: Mirikizumab

#### Mirikizumab Antibody

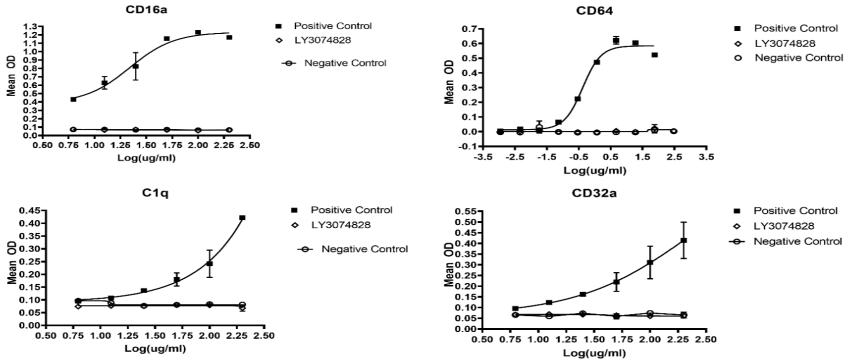


- Humanized IgG4 monoclonal antibody that selectively binds to the p19 subunit of human IL-23 cytokine and inhibits its interaction with the IL-23 receptor
- IgG4κ isotype containing the hinge-stabilizing S/P mutation
- Mirikizumab was additionally modified to significantly reduce FcγR binding and interaction
- Reduces the potential for unwanted interactions with the immune system and other possible toxicities



# In-Vitro Evaluations of CD64 and IL-23 Binding: Mirikizumab

#### Assessment of Fc Receptor Activation and Complement Binding





### Audience Response

### Which of the following is true regarding binding affinity of IL-23i's to CD64 receptors?

- A. Binding of CD64 occurs with only risankizumab
- B. Binding of CD64 occurs with only guselkumab
- C. Binding of CD64 occurs with only mirikizumab
- D. Binding of CD64 occurs with risankizumab, guselkumab, and mirikizumab

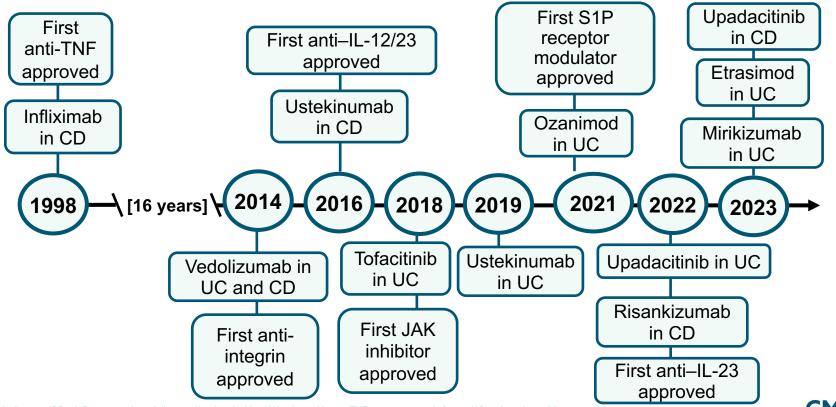




# Review of IL-23 Inhibitor Current Studies

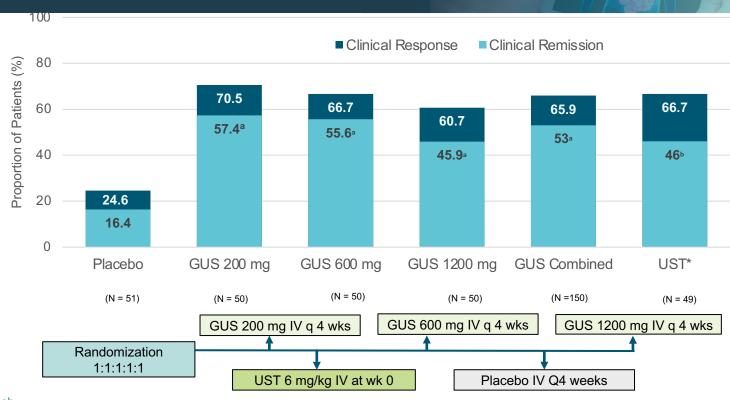
Edward V. Loftus, Jr., MD

### **Evolution of IBD Treatment Landscape**





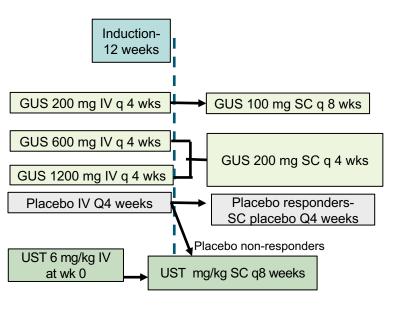
#### **GALAXI-1: Guselkumab Induction in CD\*\***



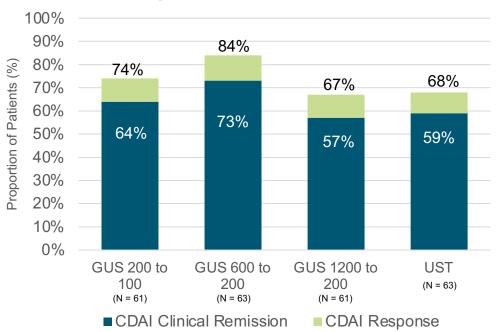
UST = ustekinumab.  $^{A}p = <0.001$  b p = 0.001; \*UST approx. 6 mg/kg IV  $\Rightarrow$  90 mg SC. Clinical Response = 100-point reduction from baseline CDAI score or CDAI < 150; Clinical Remission = CDAI < 150



#### **GALAXI-1: Guselkumab Maintenance in CD\***



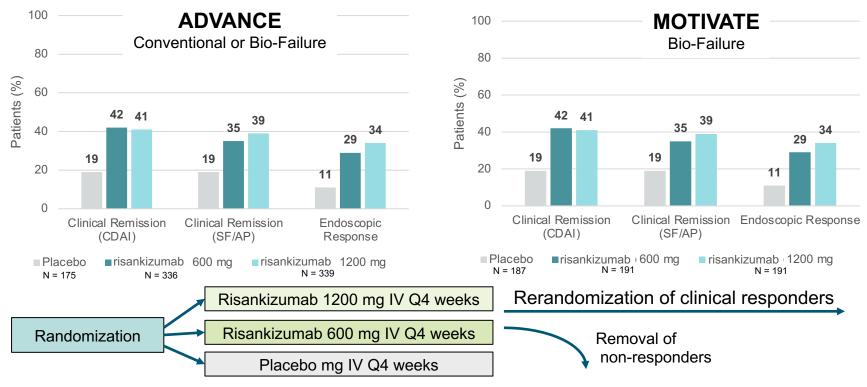
#### **CDAI** Response and Remission at week 48



<sup>\*</sup>guselkumab is not FDA-approved for the treatment of CD.
Clinical Response = 100-point reduction from baseline CDAI score or CDAI < 150; Clinical Remission = CDAI < 150
Danese S, et al. *Lancet Gastroenterol Hepatol.* 2024;9(2):133-146.



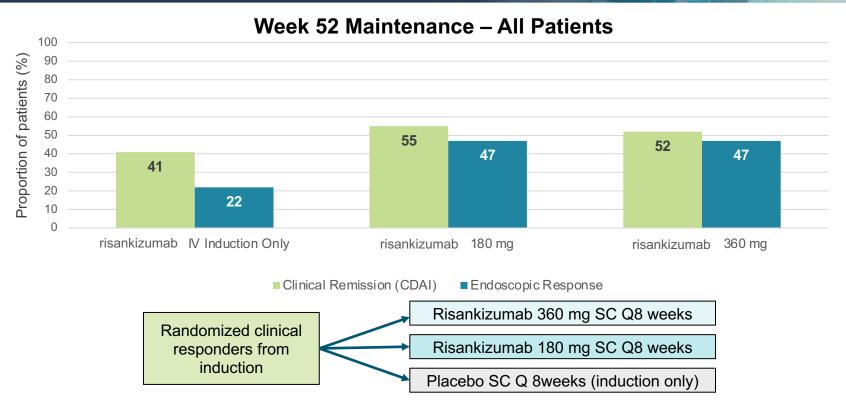
## ADVANCE and MOTIVATE: Risankizumab Induction in CD



CDAI =Crohn's disease activity index; SF/AP = stool frequency/abdominal pain.; \*Clinical responders defined as ≥30% decrease in average daily stool frequency or APS and not worse than baseline; \*Endoscopic response defined as >50% decline in SES-CD vs BL by central reviewer (or in pts with SES-CD of 4 at BL, ≥2-point decrease vs BL); CDAI clinical remission a CDAI < 150.



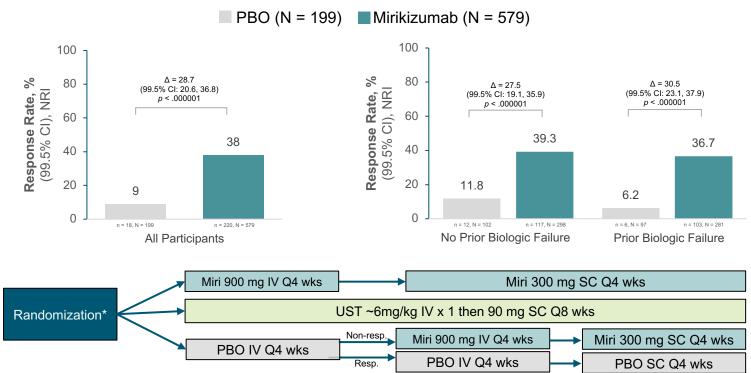
#### FORTIFY: Risankizumab Maintenance in CD





### VIVID-1: Mirikizumab Comparison in Moderate-to-Severe CD

#### Clinical Response by PRO at Week 12 and Endoscopic Response by SES-CD at Week 52

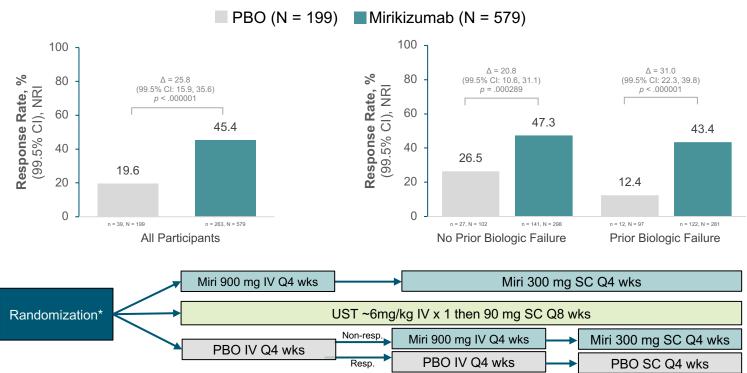


Miri = mirikizumab.



### VIVID-1: Mirikizumab Comparison in Moderate-to-Severe CD

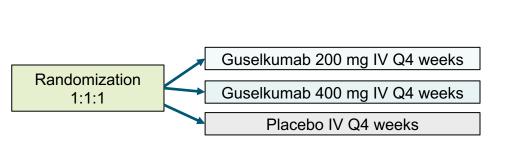
#### Clinical Response by PRO at Week 12 and Clinical Remission by CDAI at Week 52

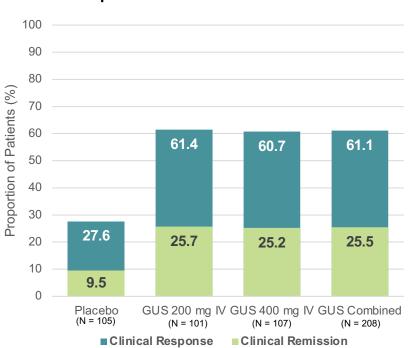




#### QUASAR: Guselkumab Induction in UC\*

#### **Clinical Response and Clinical Remission at Week 12**





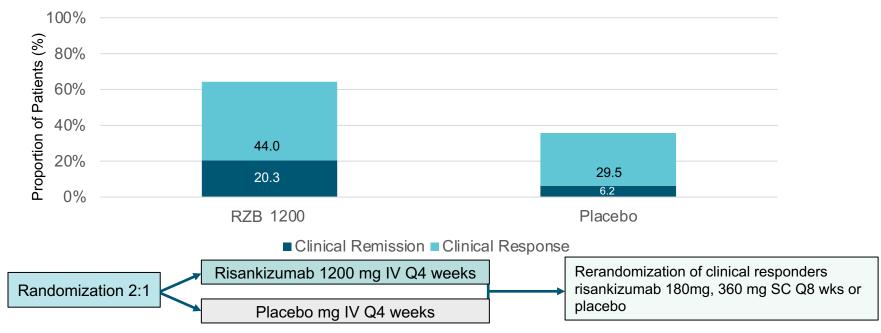
Clinical response = modified Mayo score decrease ≥30% and ≥2 points, rectal bleeding subscore ≥1-point decrease or subscore of 0/1;
Clinical remission = Mayo stool frequency subscore of 0 or 1 and not increased from induction baseline, a Mayo rectal bleeding subscore of 0, and a Mayo endoscopy subscore of 0 or 1 with no friability present on the endoscopy

Peyrin-Biroulet L, et al. Gastroenterology 2023;165(6):1443-1457.

<sup>\*</sup>quselkumab is not FDA-approved for the treatment of UC. GUS = quselkumab.

#### **INSPIRE: Risankizumab Induction in UC\***



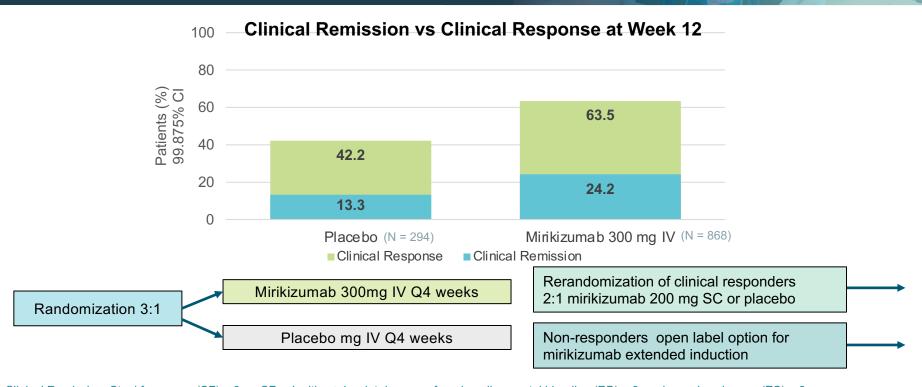


<sup>\*</sup>Risankizumab is not FDA-approved for the treatment of UC.



<sup>\*</sup>Clinical responders defined as ≥30% decrease in average daily stool frequency or APS and not worse than baseline; \*Endoscopic response defined as >50% decline in SES-CD vs BL by central reviewer (or in pts with SES-CD of 4 at BL, ≥2-point decrease vs BL); CDAI clinical remission a CDAI < 150.

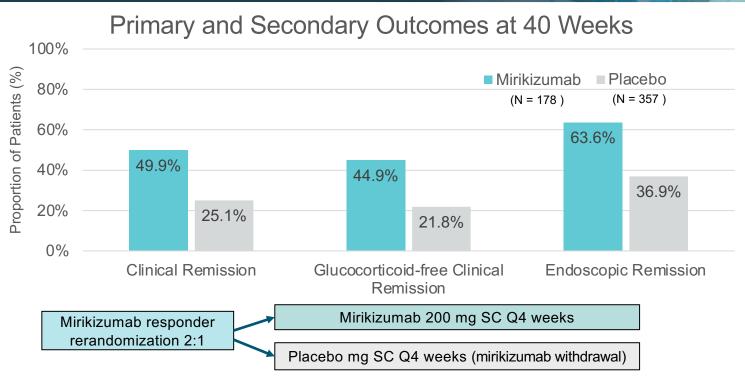
### LUCENT-1: Mirikizumab Induction in UC



Clinical Remission: Stool frequency (SF) = 0, or SF = 1 with a  $\geq$ 1-point decrease from baseline; rectal bleeding (RB) = 0; endoscopic subscore (ES) = 0 or 1 (excluding friability); clinical response: MMS of  $\geq$ 2 points and  $\geq$ 30% decrease from baseline, and a decrease of  $\geq$ 1 point in the RB subscore from baseline or a RB score of 0 or 1



#### LUCENT-2: Mirikizumab Maintenance in UC



Clinical Remission: Stool frequency (SF) = 0, or SF = 1 with a ≥1-point decrease from baseline; rectal bleeding (RB) = 0; endoscopic subscore (ES) = 0 or 1 (excluding friability), Elinical remission at week 40, remission of symptoms at week 28, and no glucocorticoid use for ≥12 weeks before week 40

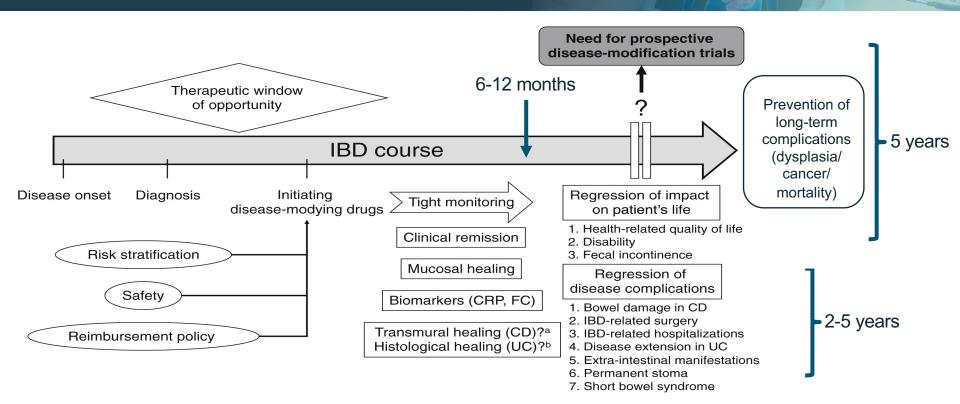




# Clinical Implications to Practice

Angelina E. Collins, MSN, ANP-BC

### **Defining Goals for Treatment**





<sup>a</sup>Transmural healing may be the ultimate therapeutic goal in CD; <sup>b</sup>Histologic healing may be the ultimate therapeutic goal in UC Le Berre C, et al. *Gastroenterology*. 2022;162(5):1424-1438.



### Dosing of IL-23 Inhibitors

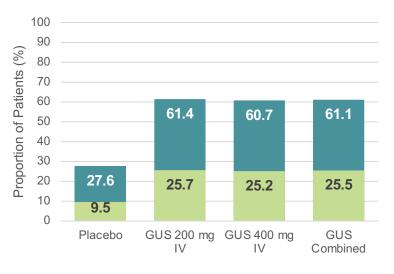
Drug	Dose	Induction Schedule	Indication	Trial
Guselkumab*	200-400mg IV	Q4W X 3	UC	QUASAR
Risankizumab*	1200mg IV	Q4W X 3	UC	INSPIRE
Mirikizumab	300mg IV	Q4W X 3	UC	LUCENT-1
Guselkumab*	200-1200mg IV	Q4W X 3	CD	GALAXI-1
Risankizumab	600-1200mg IV	Q4W X 3	CD	ADVANCE, MOTIVATE
Mirikizumab*	200-1000mg IV	Q4W X 3	CD	SERENITY



# IL-23 Inhibitors in Treatment-Naïve and Treatment- Experienced Patients

#### **QUASAR: Guselkumab\* in Ulcerative Colitis, Phase 2b**

#### **Clinical Response and Clinical Remission at Week 12**



History of inadequate response or intolerance to 1 or more advanced therapies in 47% of patients

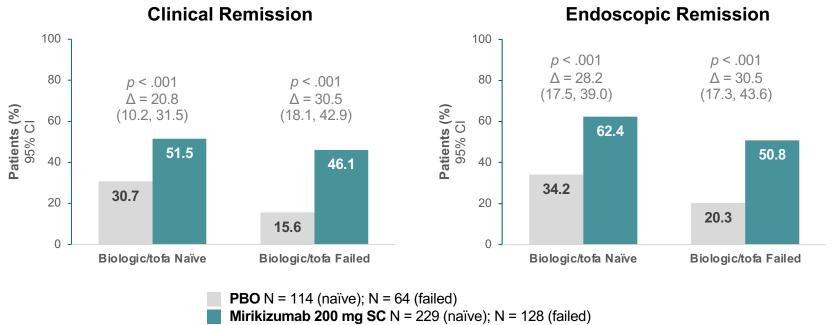
		Gusel		
	Placebo (N = 105)	200 mg IV (N = 101)	400 mg IV (N = 107)	Total (N = 313)
History of inadequate response/intolerance to ≥1 UC advanced therapy, n (%)	51 (48.6)	46 (45.5)	51 (47.7)	148 (47.3)
≥1 TNF-α antagonist, n/n (%)	46/51 (90.2)	41/46 (89.1)	46/51 (90.2)	133/148 (89.9)
Vedolizumab, n/n (%)	29/51 (56.9)	22/46 (47.8)	27/51 (52.9)	78/148 (52.7)
Tofacitinib, n/n (%)	15/51 (29.4)	10/46 (21.7)	6/51 (11.8)	31/148 (20.9)
1 advanced therapy class, n/n (%)	23/51 (45.1)	27/46 (58.7)	25/51 (49.0)	75/148 (50.7)
≥2 advanced therapy classes, n/n (%)	28/51 (54.9)	19/46 (41.3)	26/51 (51.0)	73/148 (49.3)

■ Clinical Response ■ Clinical Remission



# IL-23 Inhibitors in Treatment-Naïve and Treatment- Experienced Patients

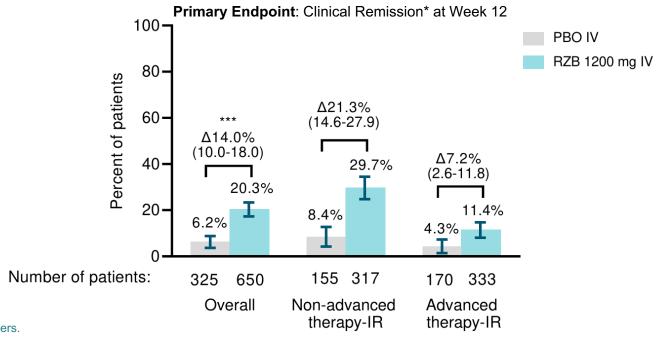
### LUCENT-2: Mirikizumab Endpoints by Biologic/Tofacitinib Failure Status Ulcerative Colitis





# IL-23 Inhibitors in Treatment-Naïve and Treatment- Experienced Patients

### INSPIRE: Risankizumab Endpoints by non-Advanced and Advanced Therapy-IR – Ulcerative Colitis

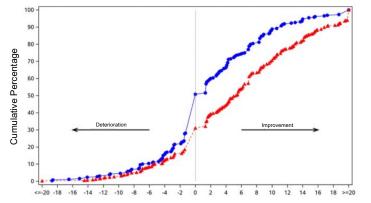


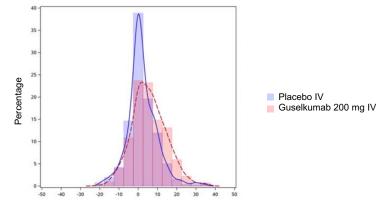




### IL-23 Inhibitors and Fatigue in Patients with Moderate-to-Severe UC – QUASAR Trial (GUS)







Fatigue response at Week 12: Overall and by history of inadequate response/intolerance to advanced therapy (ADT-IR)							
	Overall		Non-ADT-IR		ADT-IR		
	Placebo IV	GUS 200 mg IV	Placebo IV	GUS 200 mg IV	Placebo IV	GUS 200 mg IV	
Primary analysis population, N	280	421	144	213	136	208	
Fatigue response at Week 12, N (%)	60 (21.4%)	173 (41.1%)	42 (29.2%)	93 (43.7%)	18 (13.2%)	80 (38.5%)	
Adjusted treatment difference, (95% CI)		19.8 (13.1%, 26.4%)**		14.5% (4.5%, 24.5%)*	25.2% (16.6%, 33.9%)**		

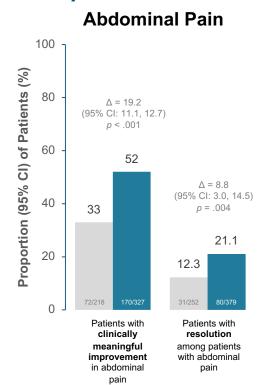


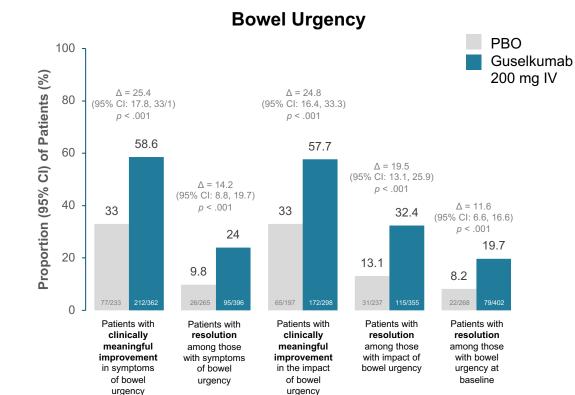
Placebo IV

→ Guselkumab 200 mg IV



# Patients with Moderate-to-Severe UC - QUASAR Trial (GUS)







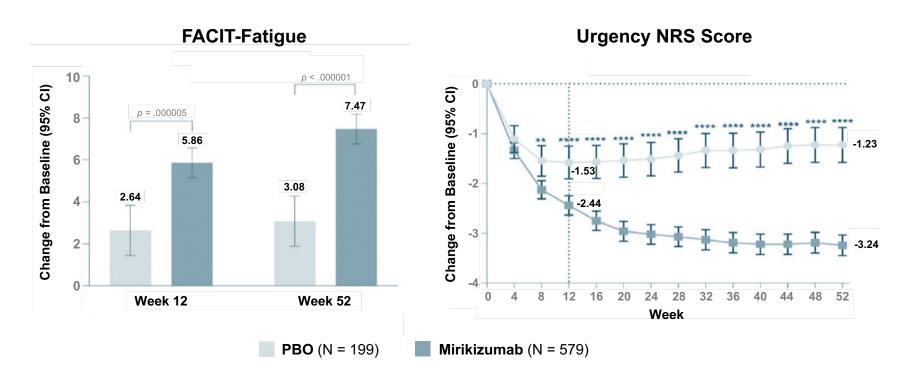
#### IL-23 Inhibitors and Symptom Resolution in Moderateto-Severe UC – INSPIRE and COMMAND Trials (RZB)

Endpoints at weeks 12 and 52 point estimate [95% CI]	Induction (week 12)		Between group diff.	Maintenance (week 52)			Between group diff.	Between group diff.
	PBO IV	RZB 1200 mg IV	(RZB 1200 mg vs PBO)	PBO (withdrawal) SC	RZB 180 mg SC	RZB 360 mg SC	(RZB 180 mg vs PBO)	(RZB 360 mg vs PBO)
No abdominal pain	26.5	35.8	9.3**	29.5	46.9	37.8	17.0***	8.2
	[21.7, 31.3]	[32.1, 39.4]	[3.4, 15.3]	[22.9, 36.1]	[39.6, 54.2]	[30.8, 44.8]	[7.4, 26.7]	[-1.3, 17.7]
No bowel urgency	27.7	44.1	16.3***	31.1	53.6	49.4	22.6***	18.4***
	[22.8, 32.6]	[40.3, 47.9]	[10.3, 22.4]	[24.4, 37.9]	[46.3, 60.9]	[42.2, 56.6]	[13.1, 32.2]	[8.8, 28.0]
No tenesmus	30.2	48.7	18.6***	23.5	36.9	36.8	13.1**	14.4**
	[25.2, 35.1]	[44.9, 52.6]	[12.4, 24.8]	[17.4, 29.6]	[29.8, 43.9]	[29.8, 43.8]	[4.6, 21.7]	[5.7, 23.0]
No fecal incontinence	58.2	70.5	12.5***	30.6	41.3	39.6	10.4*	9.8*
	[52.8, 63.5]	[67.0, 74.1]	[6.2, 18.8]	[23.9, 37.3]	[34.1, 48.6]	[32.5, 46.6]	[1.8, 19.0]	[1.2, 18.5]
No nocturnal bowel movement	43.1	67.3	24.2***	30.1	41.9	43.5	12.0**	14.8***
	[37.7, 48.5]	[63.7, 70.9]	[17.9, 30.5]	[23.4, 36.7]	[34.7, 49.1]	[36.3, 50.6]	[3.3, 20.6]	[6.1, 23.5]
No sleep interruption	40.3	62.3	22.0***	30.1	39.7	44.0	9.5*	15.3***
	[35.0, 45.6]	[58.6, 66.0]	[15.6, 28.4]	[23.4, 36.7]	[32.5, 46.8]	[36.9, 51.2]	[0.9, 18.1]	[6.6, 24.0]
Comprehensive symptom resolution	9.5	21.8	12.2***	14.2	23.5	19.4	8.9*	5.7
	[6.3, 12.7]	[18.7, 25.0]	7.8, 16.7	[9.1, 19.3]	[17.3, 29.7]	[13.7, 25.1]	[1.5, 16.3]	[-1.8, 13.1]

 $p \le 0.05, p \le 0.01, p \le 0.001$ 



### IL-23 Inhibitors and Fatigue and Bowel Urgency in Moderate-to-Severe CD – VIVID-1 Trial (MIRI)



<sup>\*\*</sup>*p* < 0.01, \*\*\*\**p* < 0.0001

FACIT-Fatigue = functional assessment of chronic illness therapy – fatigue; NRS = numeric rating scale. Travis S, et al. *J Crohns Colitis*. 2024;18(Supplement 1):i21-i23.

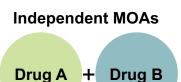


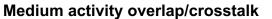
# How do we position IL-23 therapies in practice?

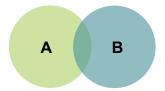


**Faculty Discussion** 

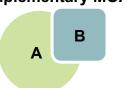
### Considerations for Combination Therapy



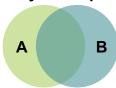


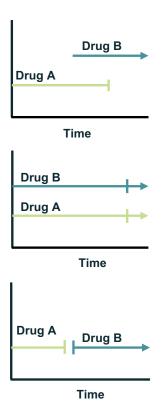


**Complementary MOAs** 



High activity overlap/crosstalk







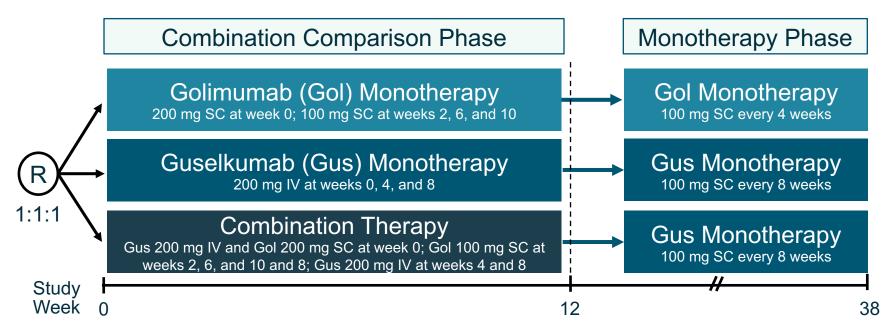
### **Advanced Combination Therapy**

- Anti-IL-23 + anti-TNF
  - VEGA
  - DUET-CD
  - DUET-UC
- Anti-integrin + anti-TNF + methotrexate
  - EXPLORER



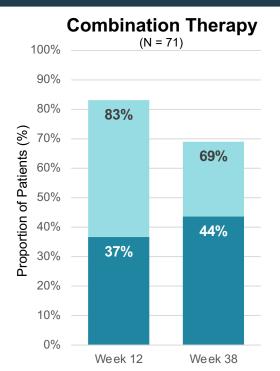
### VEGA: Golimumab, Guselkumab\*, or Combination Therapy in UC

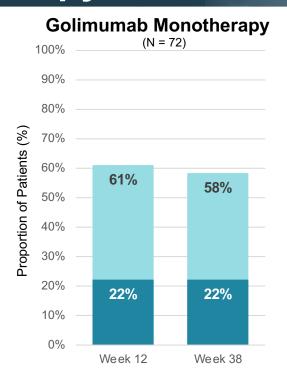
 Included TNF-naïve patients refractory to conventional therapy (e.g., immunomodulators, corticosteroids)

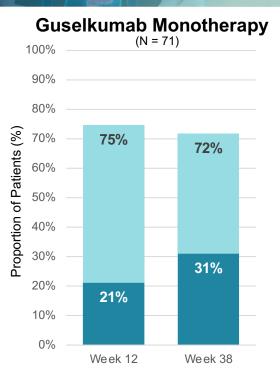




### VEGA: Golimumab, Guselkumab\*, or Combination Therapy in UC







Clinical response (full Mayo score)

Clinical remission (full Mayo score)



# How do we translate this data into clinical practice?



**Faculty Discussion** 

# How do we optimize an interdisciplinary team approach to care?

In large centers?

In community settings?



**Faculty Discussion** 

#### **SMART Goals**

Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Timely

- Consider the underlying mechanisms behind the inflammatory pathways implicated in IBD, such as those impacting IL-23 and Th17 pathways, when considering treatment options
- Differentiate between IL-23-targeted therapies and their unique characteristics to individualize and optimize patient treatment
- ► Increase utilization of clinical data from treatments targeting IL-23 when developing treatment plans for patients with IBD



# QUESTIONS ANSWERS

Thank you for joining us.

Don't forget to collect your credit.

#### **Additional Resources**

To learn more, and to access additional resources, including an interactive 3D digital animation, visit www.cmeoutfitters.com



# Visit the Gastroenterology Hub

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