

American Society of Hematology Helping hematologists conquer blood diseases worldwide



### Phase 2a Study of SLS009, a Highly Selective CDK9 Inhibitor, In Combination with Azacitidine and Venetoclax for Relapsed/Refractory Acute Myeloid Leukemia After Prior Venetoclax Treatment

Joshua F. Zeidner, MD<sup>a</sup>, Omer Jamy, MD<sup>b</sup>, Bradley W Christensen. MD<sup>c</sup> Sharif Khan, MD<sup>d</sup>, Dragan Cicic, MD<sup>e</sup>, Tapan M. Kadia, MD<sup>f</sup>

a. University of North Carolina, Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, Chapel Hill, NC, b. O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer
 Center at UAB – Hospital, c. Baylor Scott & White Research Institute, d. Bon Secours Hematology & Oncology – Oncology,
 e. Sellas Life Sciences Group, f. The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

### CDK9 as a Target & GFH009 Mechanism of Action

- Cyclin-dependent kinase 9 (CDK9) is a transcriptional regulator of multiple oncogenes, including short-lived ones like *MCL-1* and *c-MYC*<sup>1,2</sup>
  - Upregulated in hematologic malignancies and play a role in proliferation and survival of cancerous cells<sup>1,2</sup>
- CDK9 inhibition can slow or stop cell cycle progression indirectly through a key mechanism<sup>2,3</sup>
  - Perturbation of the P-TEFb complex which is required for initiation of RNA Polymerase II transcription
  - Downregulation of short-lived downstream proteins needed for cell differentiation and survival





### **GFH009 + Aza/Ven Phase 2a Trial in Ven-R/R AML**

#### Study Design



- \*Ven 400 mg daily (dose reduced w/ azoles)
- DL1: SLS009 45 mg IV QW
- DL2: SLS009 60 mg IV QW

 

 Bi-Weekly Dosing
 Venetoclax (Ven)\* PO Daily on D1-28

 D1
 D2
 D8
 D9
 D15
 D16
 D22
 D23
 SLS009

 Azacitidine (Aza) 75mg/m² IV/SQ

• DL3: SLS009 30 mg IV BIW

#### Eligibility and Endpoints

#### Eligibility Criteria:

- <u>></u>18 years w/ R/R AML after Venbased regimen
- ECOG PS = 0-2
- N up to 30 pts

#### Primary Endpoints:

- Safety & tolerability of SLS009 + Aza/Ven
- Composite Complete Remission Rates

### Secondary Endpoints:

- Overall Survival and Event-Free Survival
- PK of SLS009 w/ Aza/Ven



# **Patient Characteristics**

### 30 patients treated overall

- DL1 (45 mg IVQW): n=10
- DL2 (60 mg IVQW): n=9
- DL3 (30 mg IVBIW): n=11

Characteristic	N=30
Age: Median (Range), Years	71 (41-84)
>70 years	20 (67%)
Female	13 (43%)
# of prior lines of therapy: Median (Range)	2 (1-4)
2022 ELN Risk Favorable-Risk Intermediate-Risk Adverse-Risk	0 1 (3%) 29 (97%)
AML-MR	23 (77%)
Most frequent mutations <i>RUNX1</i> <i>ASXL1</i> <i>TP53</i> <i>TET2</i>	11 (37%) 9 (30%) 9 (30%) 6 (20%)



## **Safety and Tolerability**

- Across all 3 dose levels, no dose limiting toxicities (DLTs) were observed
- No treatment-related mortality and no serious adverse reactions were observed

	45 mg QW (N=10)		60 mg QW (N=9)		30 mg BIW (N=11)		All patients (N=30)	
<u>Toxicity</u>	Any grade(%)	≥G3 (%)	Any grade(%)	≥G3 (%)	Any grade(%)	≥G3 (%)	Any grade(%)	≥G3 (%)
Nausea	3 (30%)	0 (0%)	2 (22%)	0 (0%)	2 (18%)	0 (0%)	7 (23%)	0 (0%)
Diarrhea	2 (20%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (18%)	0 (0%)	4 (13%)	0 (0%)
Pyrexia	1 (10%)	0 (0%)	1 (10%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (7%)	0 (0%)
Hyperphosph.	2 (20%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (7%)	0 (0%)
Leukopenias	3 (30%)	3 (30%)	1 (11%)	1 (11%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4 (13%)	4 (13%)



# Efficacy



- Among 29 evaluable patients-> 16 (55%) had >50% reduction in BM blasts compared to baseline
- 9 (31%) pts achieved ORR (CR+CRi+MLFS)
  - 5 (17%) achieved CR/Cri
  - 8/9 responses occurred w/in 1<sup>st</sup> cycle
- All 9 responders had AML-MR
  - 9/15 (39%) pts w/ AML-MR achieved ORR
- 5/9 (56%) pts w/ ASXL1 mut achieved ORR

## Conclusions

- Addition of SLS009 to Aza/Ven safe and feasible without DLT's observed at any dose level in R/R AML patients after prior Venetoclax
- RP2D of SLS009 30 mg IV BIW + Aza/Ven in R/R AML
- Clinical activity observed with SLS009 + Aza/Ven
  - Primary endpoint (ORR > 20%) met
  - AML-MR enriched in responders
  - Highest clinical activity seen in *ASXL1* mutations
- Further development of SLS009 focused on AML-MRC patients after prior Venetoclax with and without *ASXL1* mutations.



## Acknowledgements

We thank all of the patients and families who participated in this study













