



# THE ROLE OF RNA THERAPIES IN USHER SYNDROME

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# Forward looking statements

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# ProQR Therapeutics

Patient-focused RNA THERAPEUTICS platform company,  
developing drugs for INHERITED RETINAL DISEASES  
with well understood genetic causality

# ProQR Development Programs at a glance

## RNA Therapies in Clinical Development:

- Sepofarsen: Leber Congenital Amaurosis type 10 (**LCA10**)
- QR-421a: Usher Syndrome / non-syndromic Retinitis pigmentosa due *Ush2a* Exon 13 mutations
- QR-1123: Autosomal-dominant Retinitis pigmentosa due to Rhodopsin (*Rho*) mutations

# The ProQR Journey for patients with Inherited Retinal Diseases (IRDs)

2012	2013 - 2016	2017 - 2019	2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Founding of ProQR</b></li><li>• <b>Initial Focus</b> on rare lung disease (<b>Cystic fibrosis</b>)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Shift to Focus on Eye Diseases</b></li><li>• <b>Development Partnerships</b> with Academia on rare genetic eye disease (LCA, RP)</li><li>• <b>Extensive Preclinical Development</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Start of First Clinical Trial: Sepofarsen in LCA10</b></li><li>• <b>Expansion of Clinical Programs</b> to RP with Ush2a mutations and RP due to Rho mutations</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Clinical programs advancing with lead program in registration trial</b></li><li>• <b>Molecules in pre-clinical phase for &gt;25 additional mutations</b> causing IRDs</li></ul>

LCA = Leber congenital amaurosis, RP = Retinitis pigmentosa

# ProQR inherited blindness platform

## UNIQUE PLATFORM FOR PRECISION MEDICINE



Targeted RNA  
oligo-nucleotide  
therapies



Intravitreal  
delivery  
is routine  
procedure in  
ophthalmology



Broad distribution  
allows for  
targeting of  
central and  
peripheral  
diseases



Predictive optic  
cup model

# Validating the ProQR inherited retinal disease platform

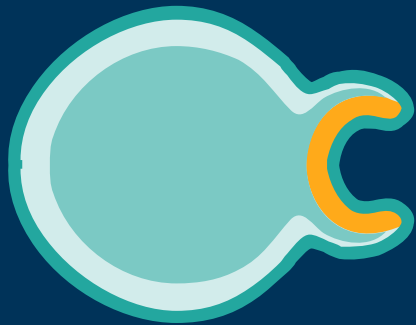
*Predictive retinal organoid model*



# RNA therapy platform for IRD

*Model-informed drug discovery (MIDD) de-risks and accelerates development*

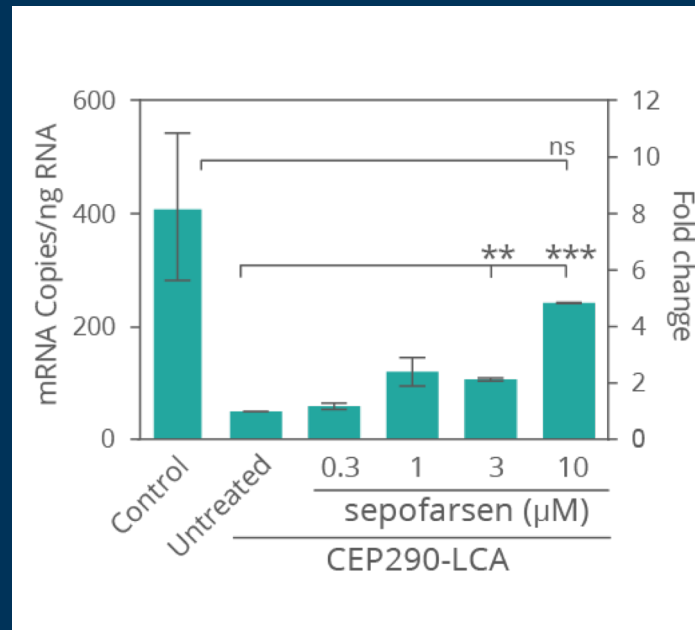
## Human retinal organoid model



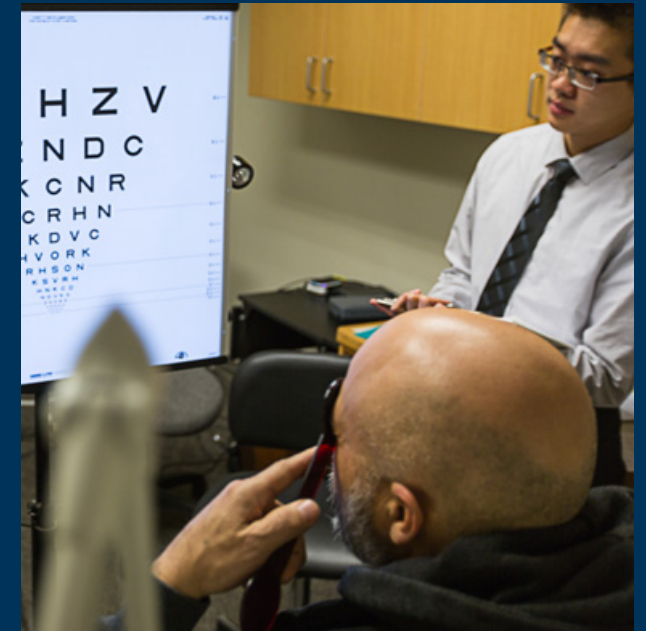
### ProQR's Skin to Eye Initiative

Models are generated from small skin punch biopsies from patients with eye diseases

## Response in retinal organoids

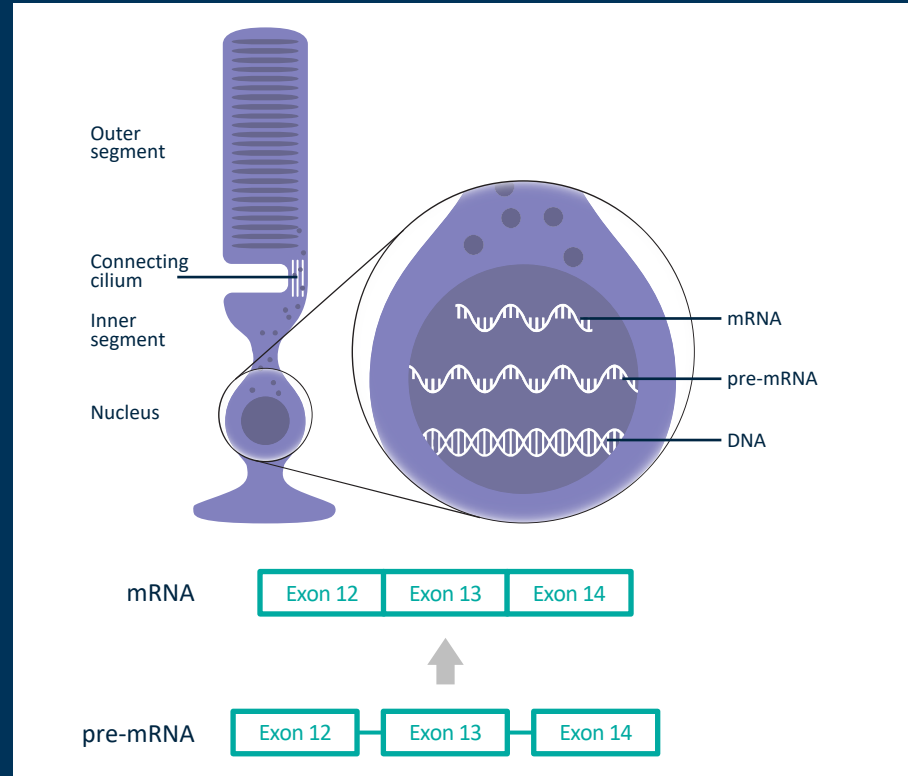


## Phase 1/2 human trial

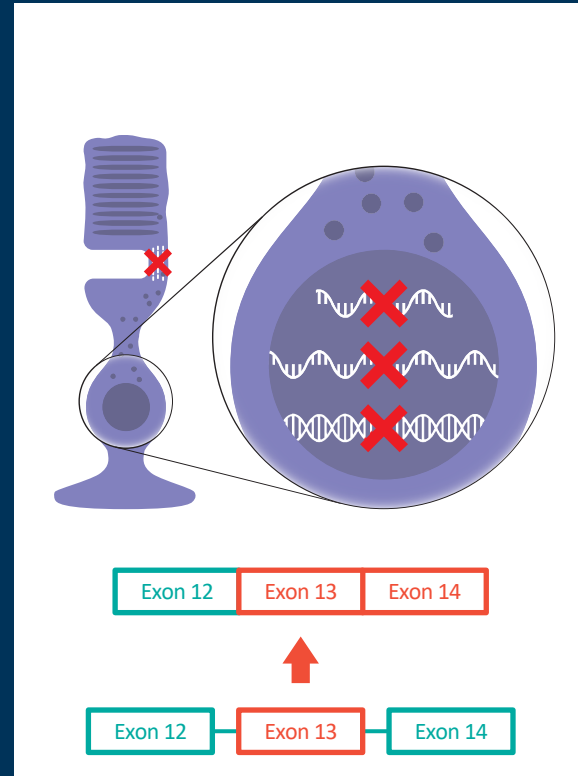




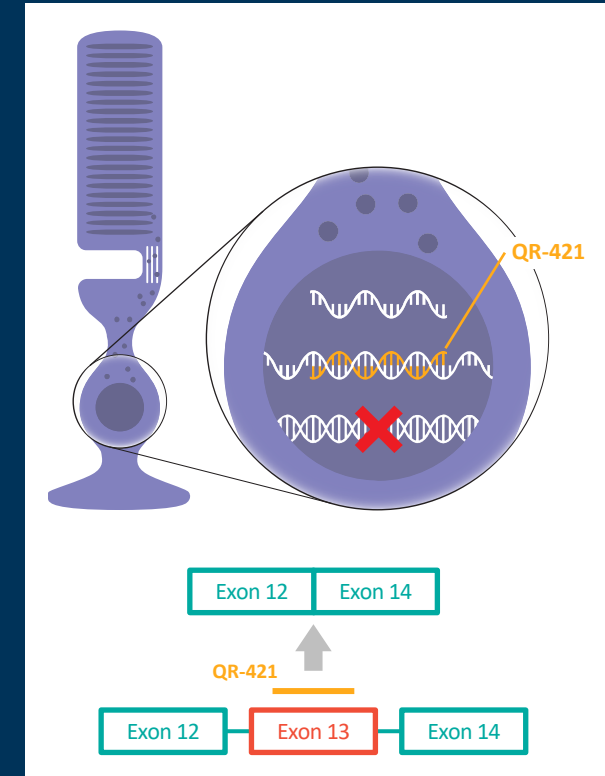
# How QR-421a works: exon skipping to remove mutation



In wild type cells usherin enables protein transport through the connecting cilium



In cells with the USH2A mutation usherin is not active, hampering protein transport over the cilium

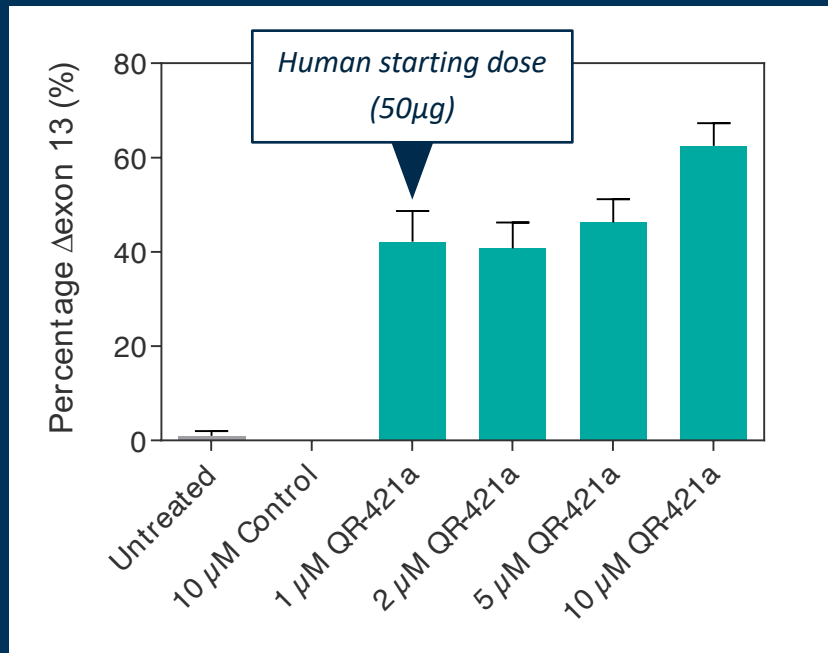


Exclusion of the exon harboring the mutation leads to restoration of functionality of usherin

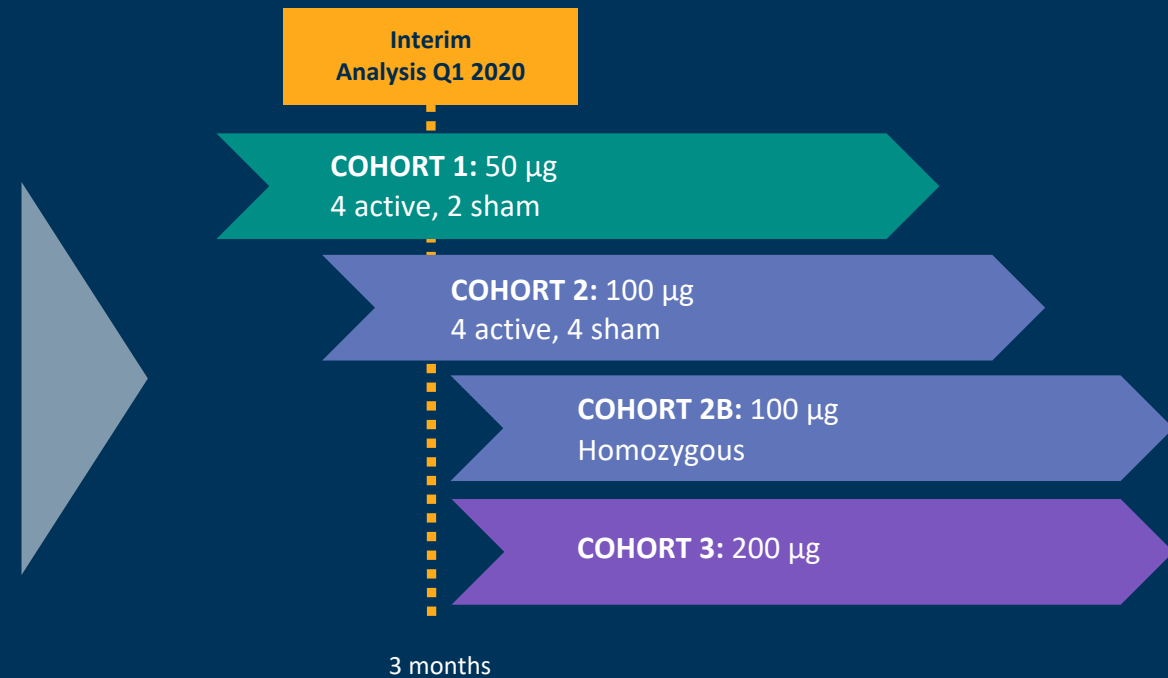
# QR-421a RNA therapy in USH2A

*MIDD predicts clinical response at human dose 50-200µg/eye*

## Response in retinal organoids



## Phase 1/2 Stellar trial, (ongoing)



# QR-421a RNA therapy

*For USH2A mediated Usher syndrome and  
non-syndromic retinitis pigmentosa*

# How RNA Therapy is administered

Injection of Therapies into the eye ball (“intravitreal”) are routine procedures in ophthalmology

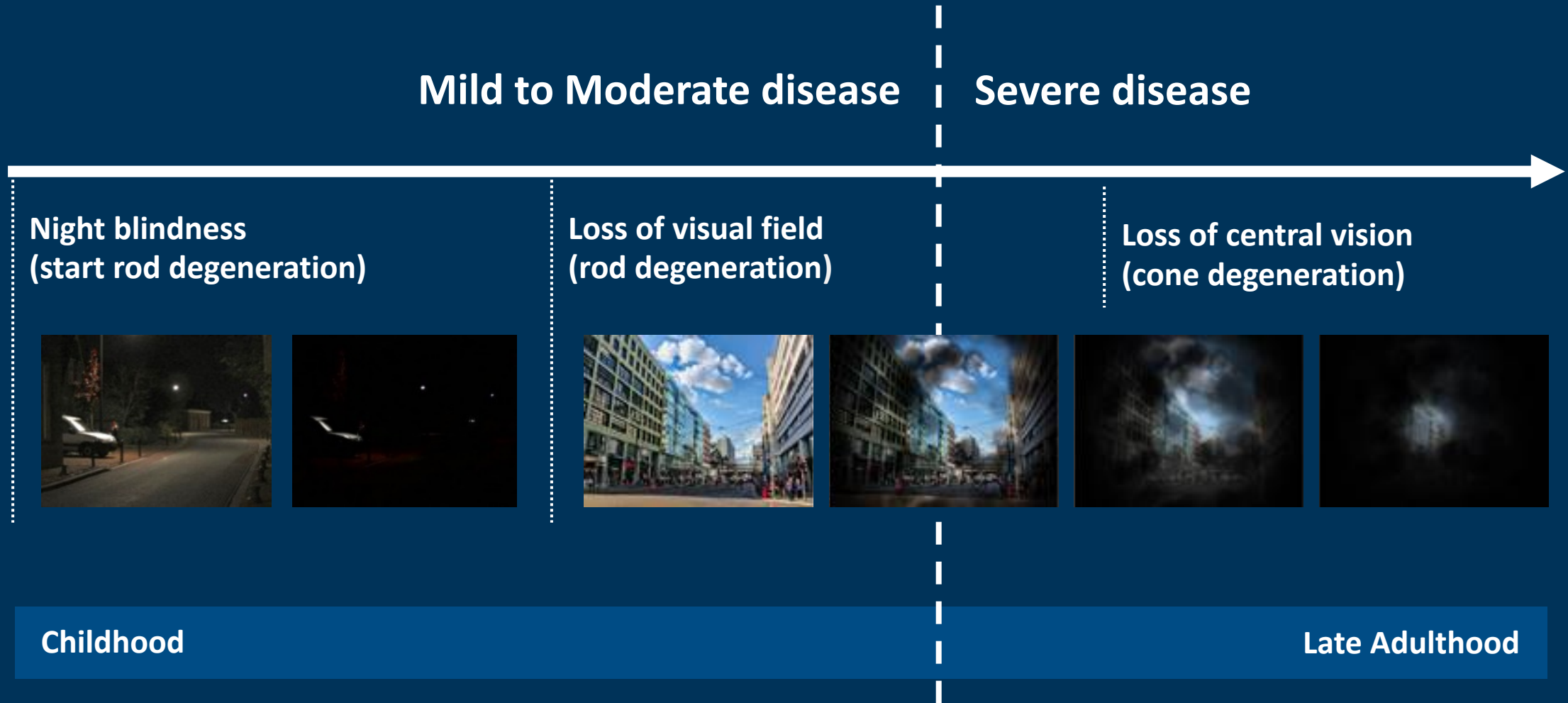
- Infrequent injections, ~2-3 times per year
- No viral vector “carrying” the therapy (“Naked”)

Broad distribution allows for targeting of central and peripheral diseases

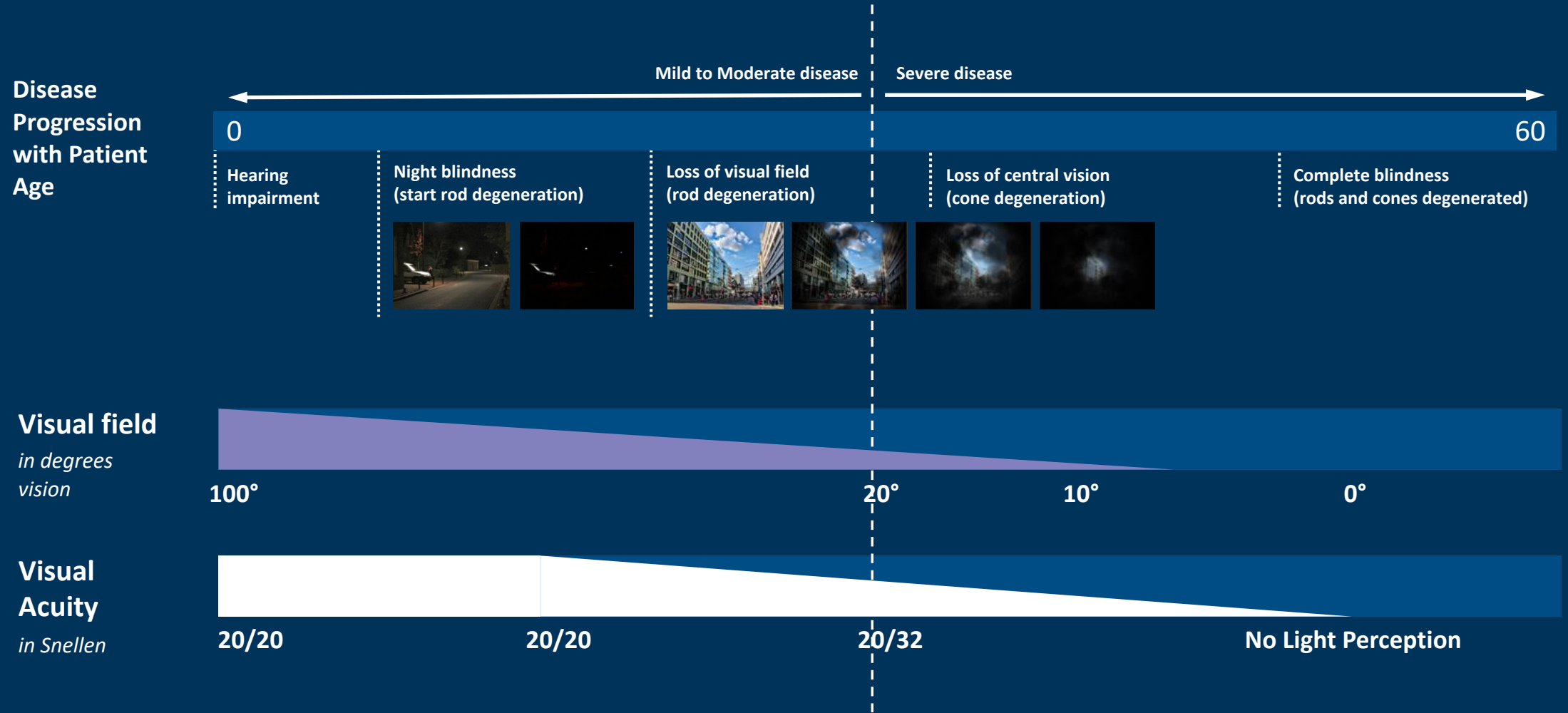
- Oligo’s distribute broadly in the eye
- Allowing for targeting central and peripheral disease



# Typical Disease Progression in Retinitis Pigmentosa



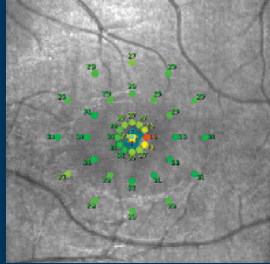
# Disease progression and endpoints



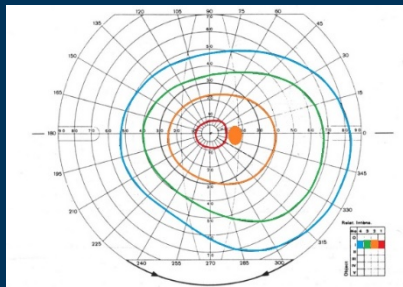
Ranges are illustrative, not exact

# Visual fields:

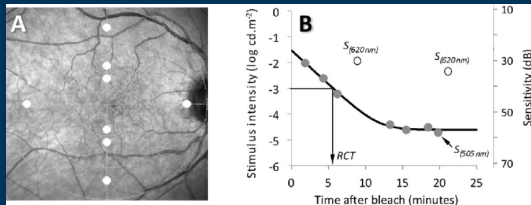
## Quantifying visual field defects



Microperimetry (MAIA)

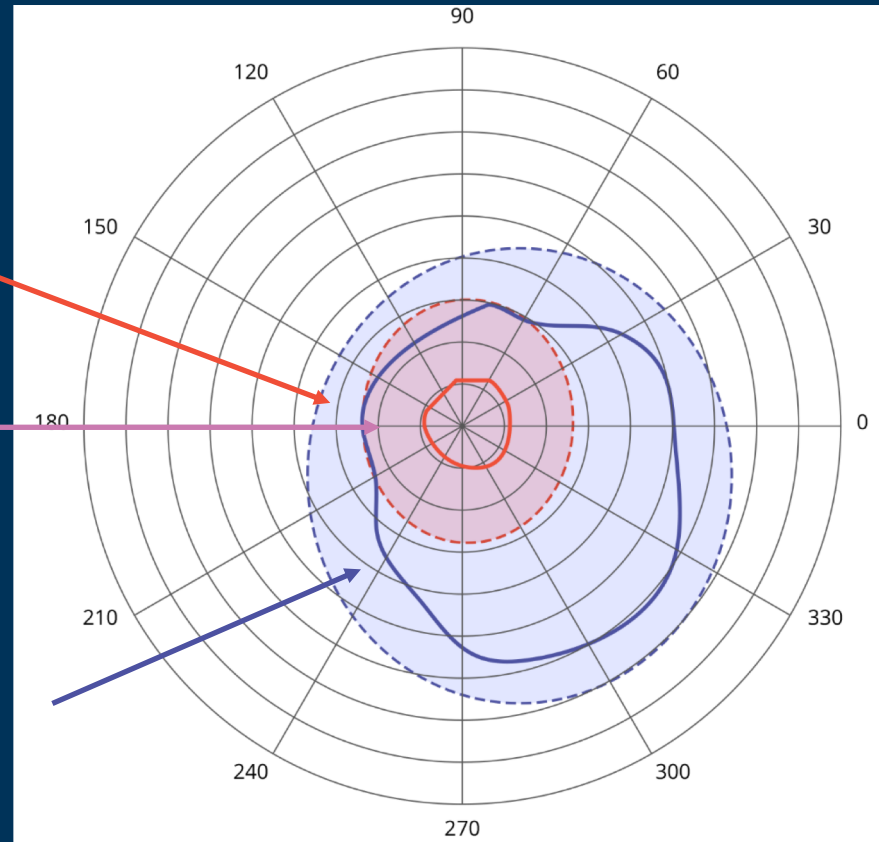


Automated perimetry (Octopus)



Dark-adapted chromatic (DAC) perimetry (Medmont)

### Usher syndrome



- Earlier stage disease
- Later stage disease
- Potentially viable photoreceptors as shown by OCT. Indicates potential area of visual functional restoration by QR-421a



# Functional Test of the Light Sensitivity of the Retina

## Full Field Stimulus Threshold Test (FST)

- Performed in all subjects in the STELLAR Trial
- Test of most sensitive part of the retina

### **Goal**

Directional improvement in treatment group

Indicator of increased light sensitivity

# Imaging of the Structure of the Retina

## *Marker of Progression of Disease*

- Imaging of the retina through high resolution Optical coherence tomography (OCT)
- Visualizes anatomy of the central retina
- Degeneration of photoreceptor cells in the macula is visible at  $<20^\circ$  visual field (structure is called Ellipsoid Zone, EZ)

### **Goal:**

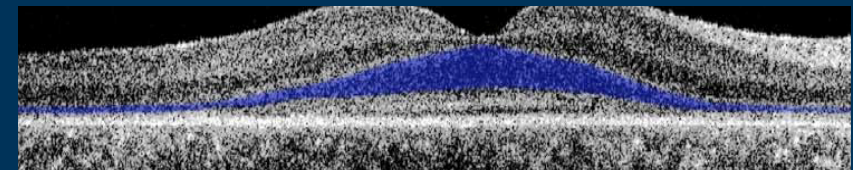
Slowing of progression of EZ deterioration



**Normal OCT**



**Severe Usher Syndrome**



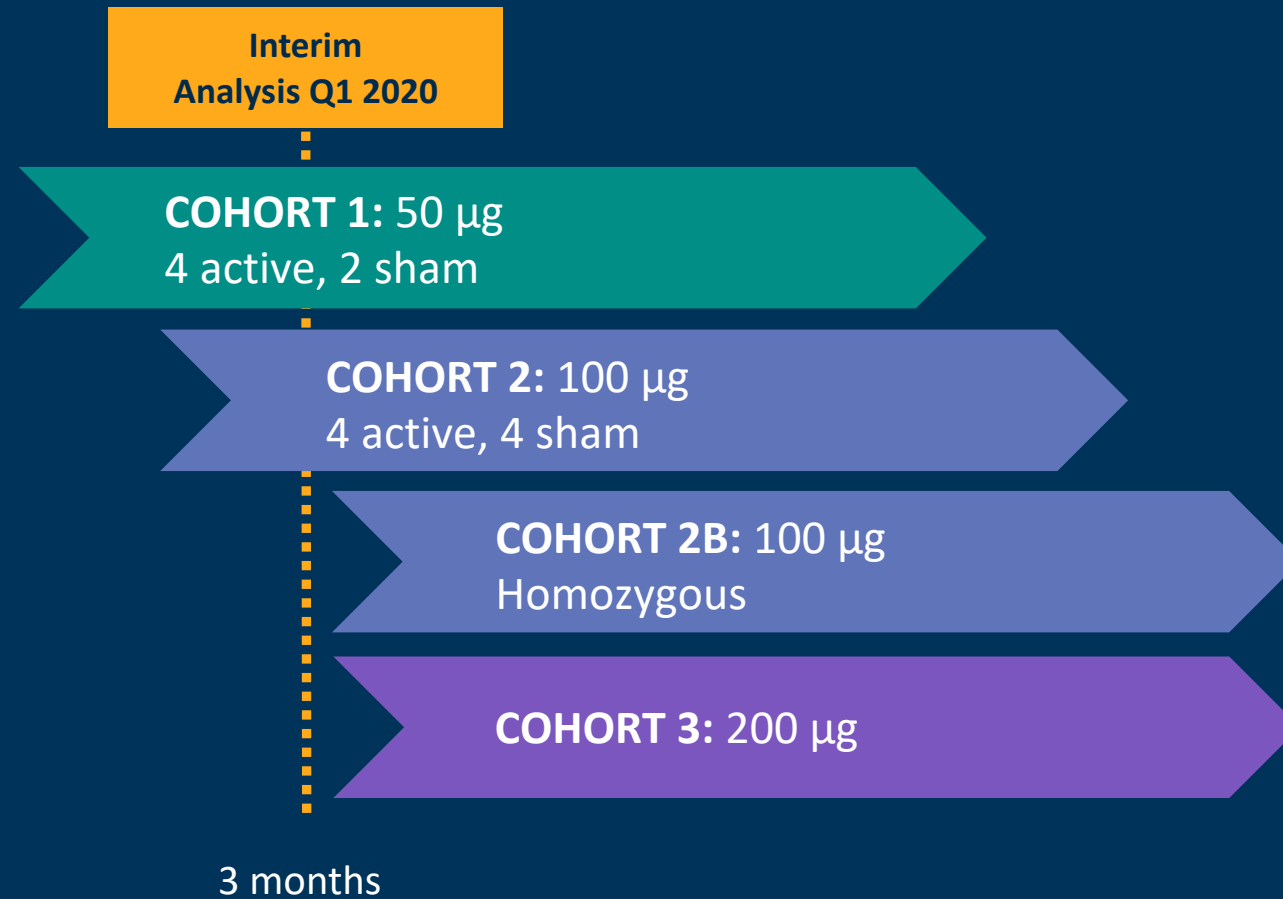
# Trial design & demographics

*Objectives, trial design and baseline characteristics*

# Key trial goals/objectives

- Establish early safety and tolerability
- Find early signs of efficacy and how long the effect lasts

# QR-421a Phase 1/2 trial in Usher & nsRP



**24 month follow-up**  
to measure durability of effect  
and inform dosing interval



# Trial population baseline characteristics

Cohort/ Dose	Genotype	Phenotype	Visual impairment severity	Months of follow-up
50µg (n=4)	3 homozygous 1 heterozygous	2 Usher 2 nsRP	2 mild-moderate 2 severe	6-11
100µg (n=4)	0 homozygous 4 heterozygous	2 Usher 2 nsRP	3 mild-moderate 1 severe	3-4
Sham (n=6)	1 homozygous 5 heterozygous	2 Usher 4 nsRP	5 mild-moderate 1 severe	3-9

# Interim results

*Safety & tolerability, efficacy and next steps*



# Safety and tolerability

*A total of more than 1350 subject-treatment days at time of IA*

- No serious ocular or non-ocular Adverse Events.
- No evidence of inflammation.
- No treatment-associated cataracts.
- No cases of cystoid macular edema or retinal thinning.

# 25% of treated subjects defined as responder

*1 of 3 homozygous versus 1 of 5 heterozygous subjects demonstrated benefit in multiple outcome measures v. untreated eye*

## Pattern of Benefit

Subject	Baseline visual impairment	Genetic background	Dose	Days	OCT EZ area	DAC	FST	BCVA
Responder 1	Moderate	Homozygous	50µg	270	✓	✓	✓	
Responder 2	Severe	Heterozygous	100µg	120		✓	✓	✓

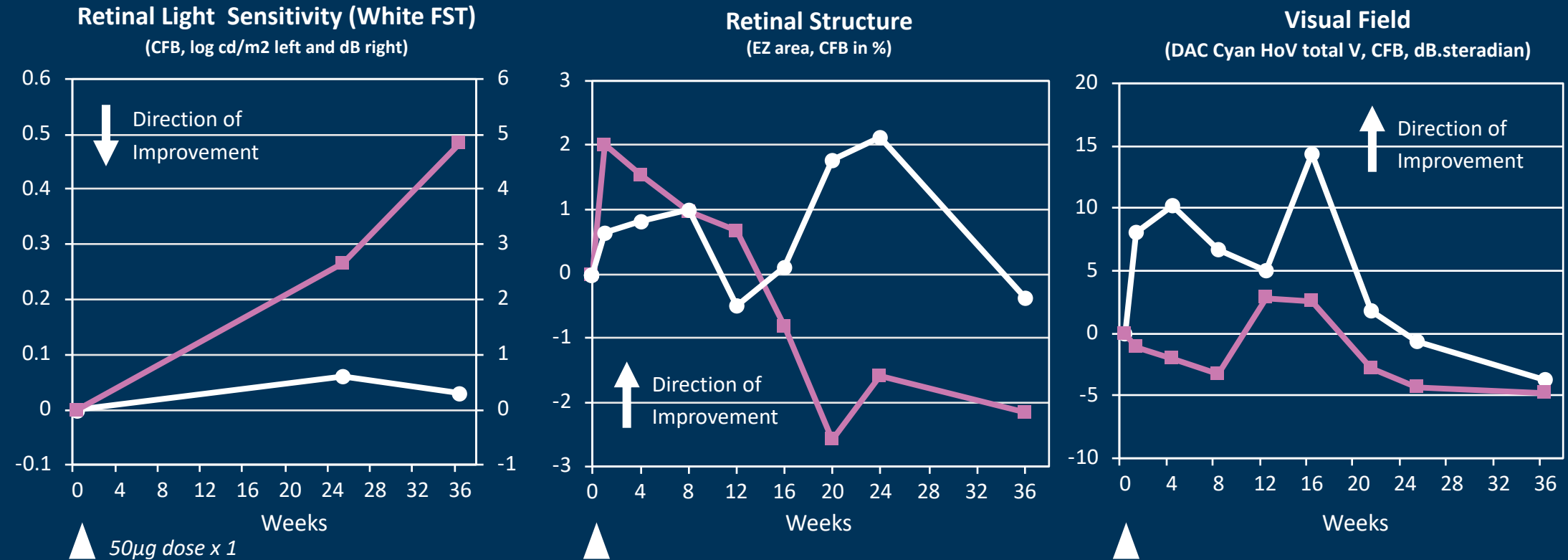
Mild-moderate disease informative

Severe disease informative

✓ = Benefit    □ = No change

# Responder 1

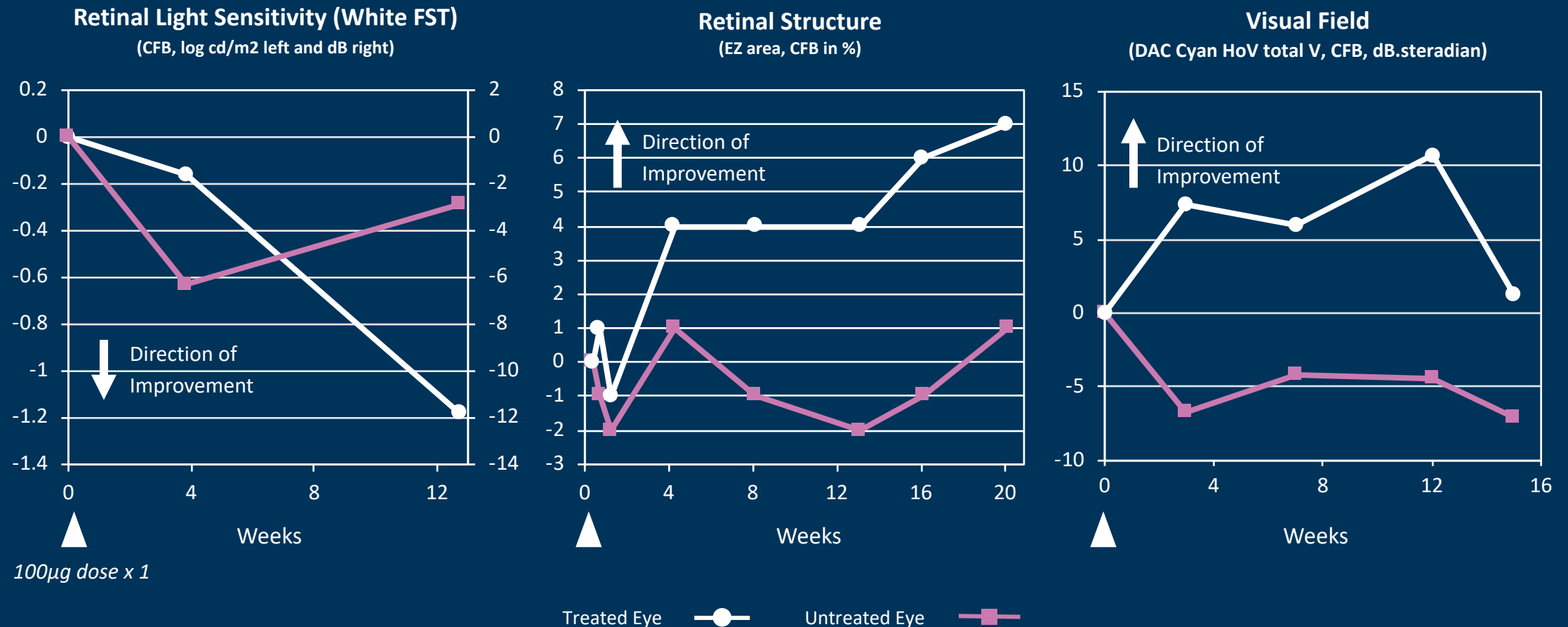
*Concordant benefit in FST, EZ area and DAC relative to untreated eye (change from baseline)*



Waning response at later time points informs dosing interval

# Responder 2

*Concordant improvement in FST, BCVA and DAC relative to untreated eye (change from baseline)*



# Efficacy summary and trial adaptation

- 2 of 8 QR-421a-treated subjects demonstrated treatment benefit
- 0 of 6 sham-treated subjects met the responder definition
- Early evidence of efficacy at the lower two dose levels tested provide further validation of our platform technology
- Early responder data provide guidance for adaptation of the trial, including
  - Enrichment for homozygous exon 13 mutation subjects in the 100 $\mu$ g dose
  - Dose escalation to a 200 $\mu$ g dose cohort

# Progress against trial goals

- ✓ Establish early safety and tolerability
  - ✓ Characterize early examples of functional target engagement and if present, duration of benefit to inform dosing interval
- 

- ✓ Assess utility of various outcome measures in moderate versus advanced disease
- ✓ Inform further dose-ranging and the subject enrichment strategy for next steps in development
- ❑ Characterize the contributions of drug dose and gene dose
- ❑ Follow treatment-responsive subjects to characterize the duration of response and estimate the dosing interval



IT'S IN  
OUR RNA