

# RCT Ltd

## Respiratory Clinical Trials

Dr Brian Leaker  
Dr B O'Connor

Prof PJ Barnes

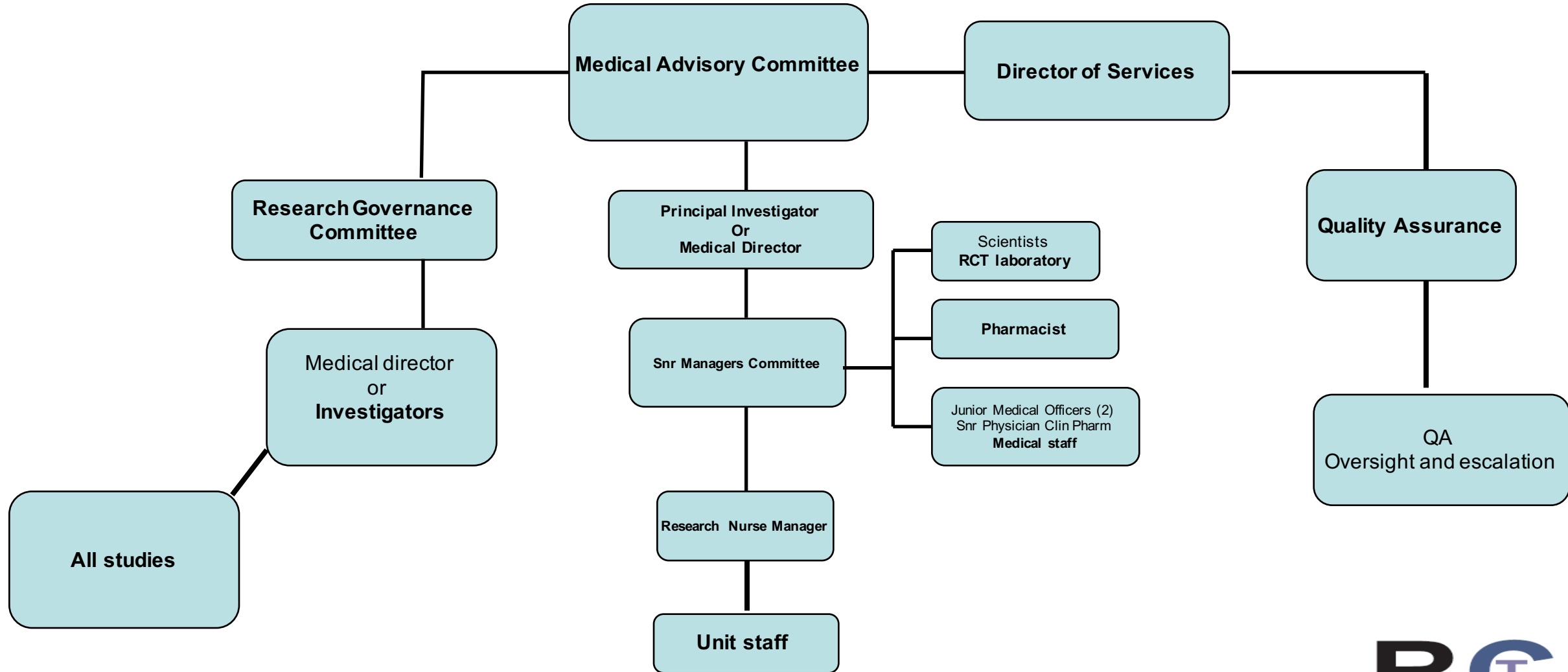
# RCT @ QASMC

RCT is located within Queen Anne St Medical Centre, an independent private hospital with excellent medical facilities;



- imaging including Doppler USS & 64 slice PET / CT;
- theatre
- full endoscopy services including bronchoscopy;
- cardiac and pulmonary function lab
- biomarker laboratory;
- clinical trials unit with overnight stay facilities.

# Clinical trials Unit



# Risk management



- Research Governance Committee
  - Reviews new trial protocols & related information (IB; toxicology, safety )
  - Determines level of risk for each study prior to Ethics submission
  - Reviews additional safety & updates from sponsor for ongoing studies
  - Required majority vote of approval
- External Chair plus two external experts
  - Clinical pharmacologist (Chair)
  - QP
  - Toxicologist
- Non –Voting medical director and physicians

# Risk management



- **Research Governance Committee (quarterly)**
  - Reports level of risk to MAC for proposed study
  - Safety review
- **Medical Advisory Committee (quarterly)**
  - Oversight of all hospital & clinical trial activities
  - Independent Chairman
- **Senior management Committee (every fortnight)**
  - Reports to MAC
  - Day to day management of clinical trials
  - Holds risk register for ongoing study activities
  - QA review
- **Governance Committee**
  - Oversight of control measures in place

## Risk Rating of Human Pharmacology Studies in Drug Development

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**Add risks to max 12; Low risk = ≤ 4, Moderate risk = 5-6, Higher risk = 7-8, High risk = 9-12**

## Risk Score and Interpretation

**Low risk =  $\leq 4$ , Moderate risk = 5-6, Higher risk = 7-8, High risk = 9-12**

**BUT a rating of 4 in any category implies that the study is of high risk.**

### Potential 'Low risk' studies

**Medical Director & Chairman discuss**

**RGC Chairman will normally approve these without requiring assessment of the full RGC.**

### Other studies

**All studies of greater than 'low risk' will be assessed by the full RGC.**

# Case studies



- **Marketed product**
  - Intended patient population
  - Inhaled Challenge
- **Generic drug**
  - Novel formulation and delivery
  - First study in intended patient population (elderly COPD)
  - Only 2<sup>nd</sup> study in development program



# Case studies



- Novel Inhaled Immuno-modulator (NCE)
  - First patient study (asthma)
  - Second study in man hence design
  - Allergen challenge and invasive procedures
  - Long term safety issues
- Novel oral anti-inflammatory (NCE)
  - Second study in man (healthy volunteers)
  - LPS challenge
  - Safety issues

# Study 1

- Combination inhaler
  - Effects on bronchodilation and inflammation

## **Bronchoprotective and anti-inflammatory effect of Beclomethasone Dipropionate plus Formoterol HFA fixed combination in asthmatic patients (Fostair)**

- Randomised double dummy dbl blind placebo controlled three way cross-over
- 3 days treatment with 10 days wash-out
  - Low dose BDP 200 Fom12;
  - High dose BDP 800 Fom 48
- 10 days washout between treatments
- N= 18 mild asthmatics FEV1>70% pred
- Evaluation of dose response by;
  - Lung Function (AUC 0-4 FEV1)\*
  - AMP challenge (PC20) 4hrs post dose)\*
  - FeNO\* (2 & 4hrs post dose)

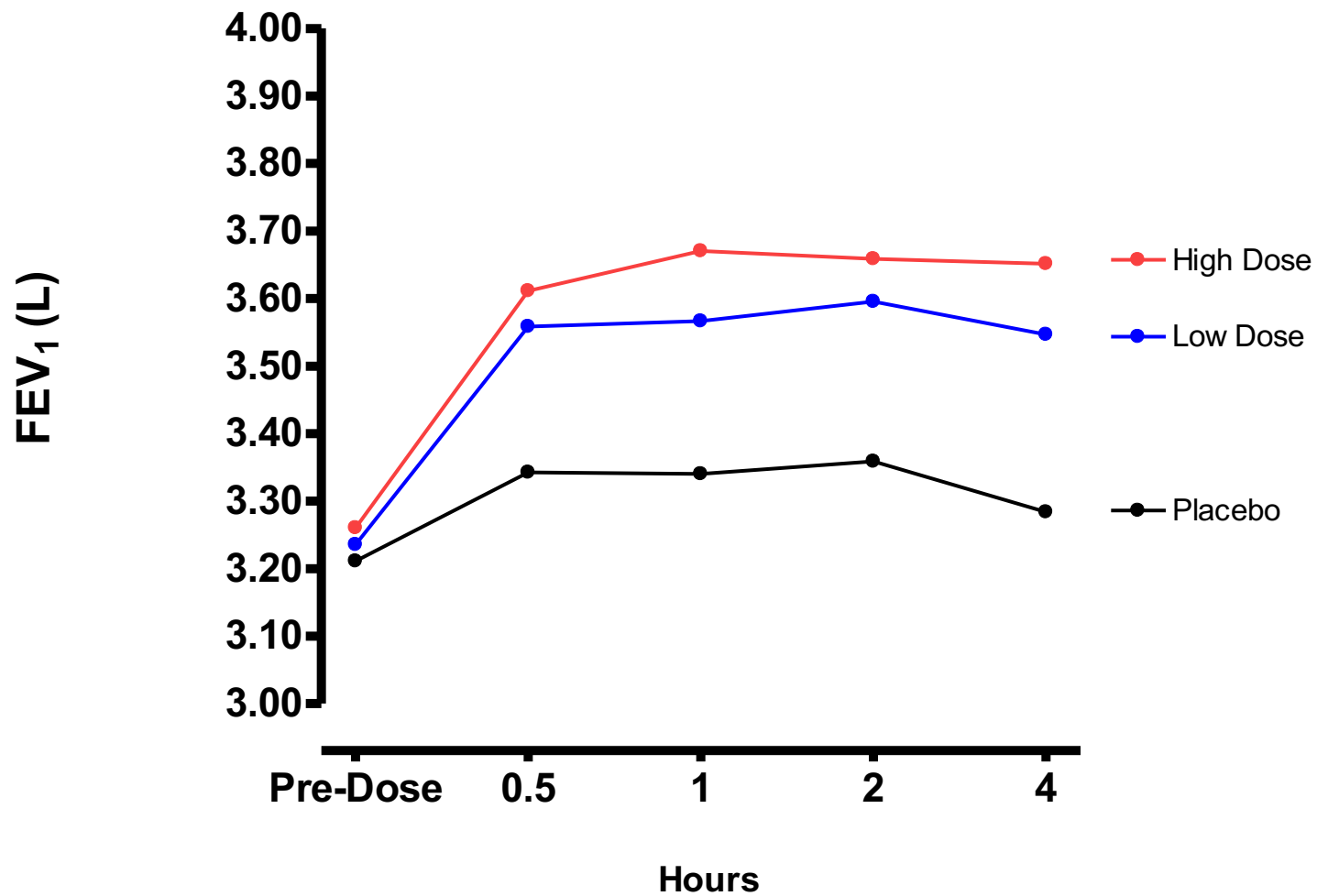
\* joint primary end points

## Risk Rating for Clinical Studies in Drug Development

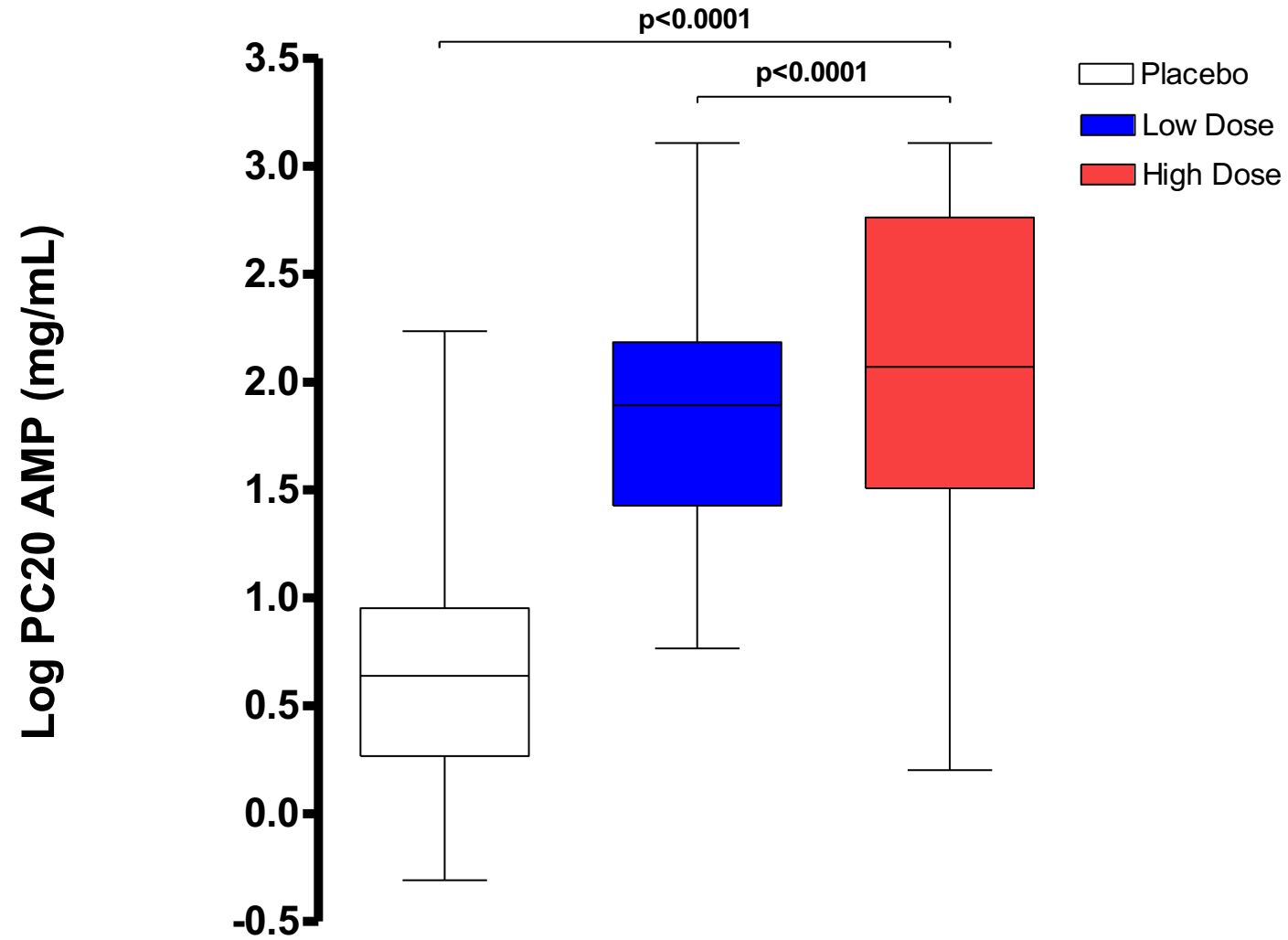
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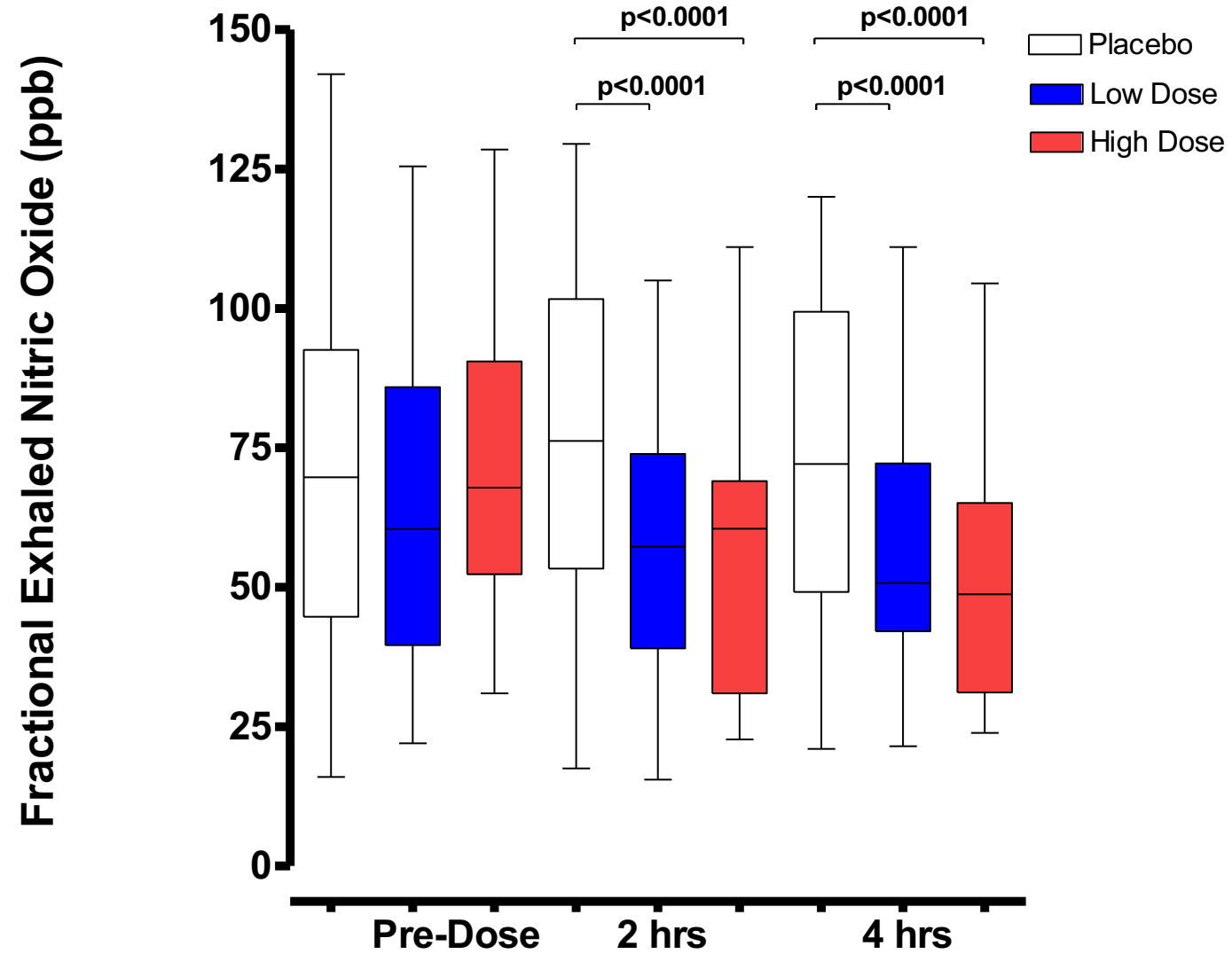
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**Dose Response Effect of Fixed Combination Beclometasone/Formoterol  
on AUC(0-4 hours) of FEV<sub>1</sub> (L)**



# Dose Response Effect of Fixed Combination Beclometasone/Formoterol on Adenosine Monophosphate Bronchial Challenge





# Summary

- There was a significant early bronchodilator effect following combination BDP/F treatment
- Dose response to PC20 AMP & FeNO
  - Demonstrate anti-inflammatory effects
- Safe and well tolerated

O'Connor, Leaker BMC Pulm Med 2011





## Efficacy and Safety of nebulised Glycopyrrolate in COPD using high efficiency nebuliser in in pts with COPD

- To determine effects of EP 101 on bronchodilation up to 30 hrs post dose
  - Overnight stay in Unit
- 6 way cross over design (one week WO)
- Single Dose X 5 doses (12.5 – 200ug)
  - Placebo
- Patients
  - 40 COPD pts Gold stage 2 & 3
  - FEV1 30-75% post bronchodilator
  - Reversibility >12% (150mls) post ipratropium
- End points
  - FEV1 up to 30 hours
  - ECG & QTc

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Figure 1. Mean change in FEV<sub>1</sub>

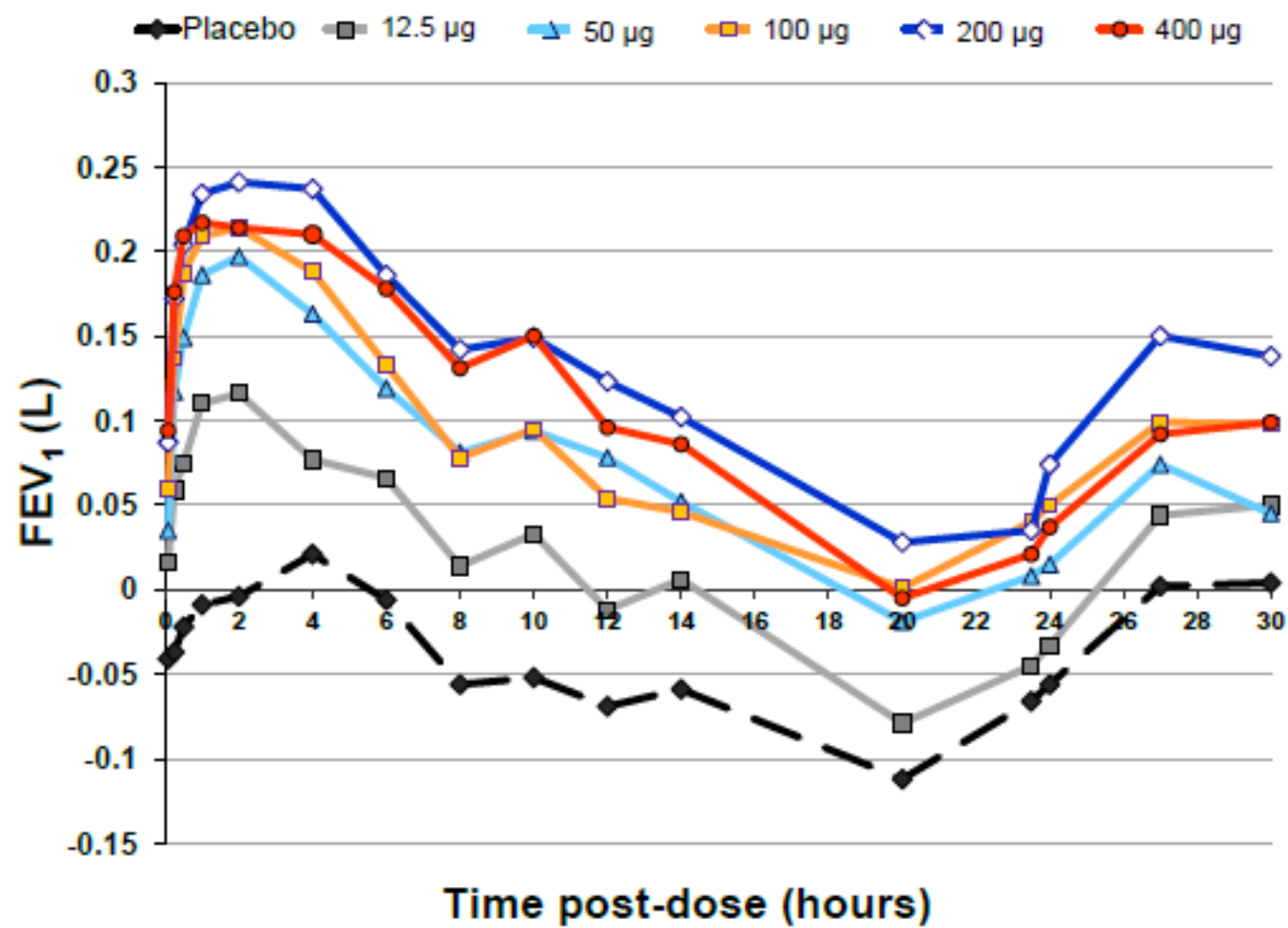
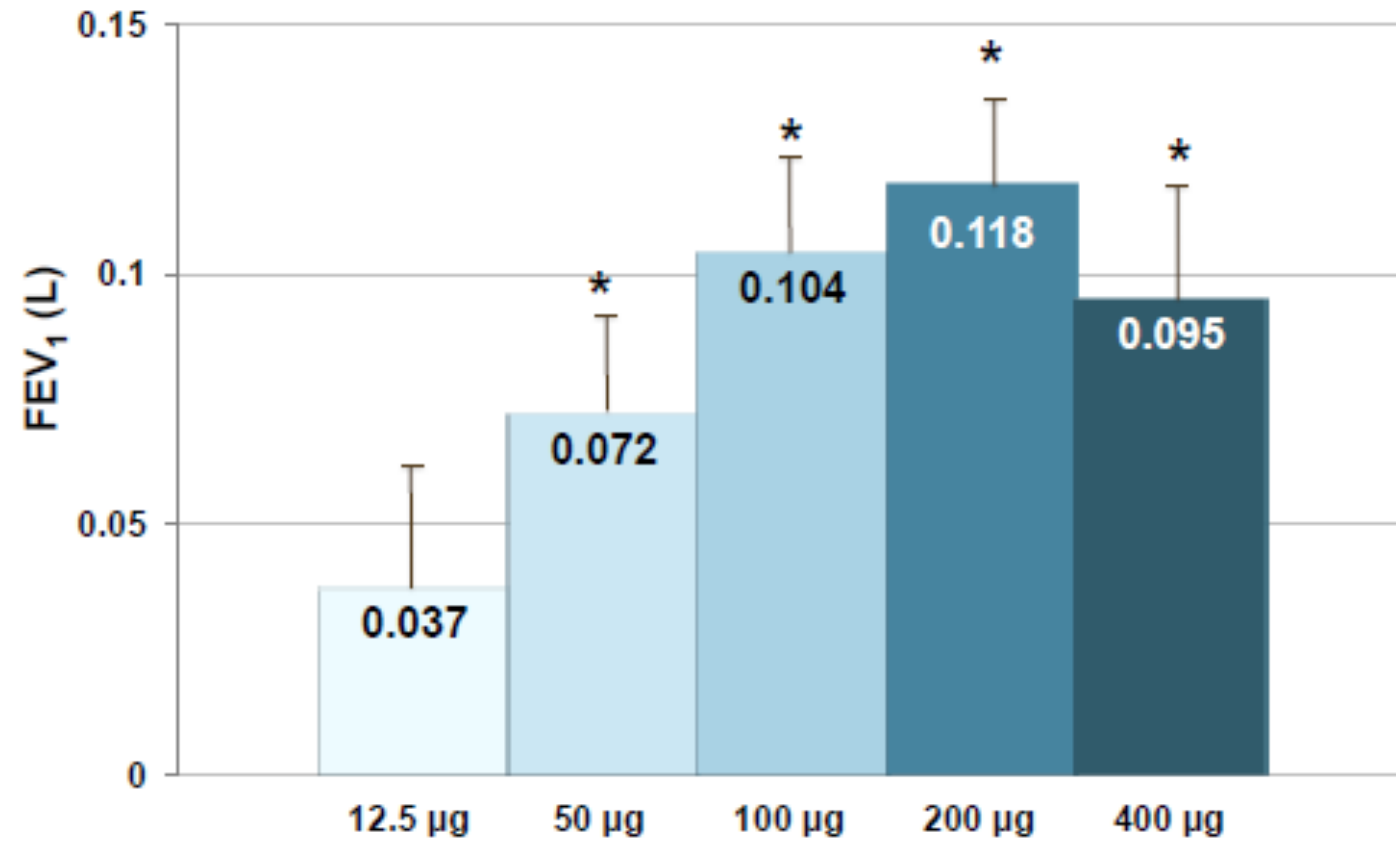


Figure 2. Placebo-adjusted Trough FEV<sub>1</sub> at 24 hours (mean±SEM)



Clinically relevant improvement in FEV<sub>1</sub> at doses >50µg

# Summary EP-101

- Clinically relevant bronchodilation at doses > 50ug maintained for up to 30 hrs
- Safe and well tolerated
  - No effect heart rate; ECG inc QTc
  - No other safety issues



# The effects of the novel Toll-like receptor 7 (TLR7) agonist AZD8848 on allergen-induced responses in patients with mild asthma

Brian Leaker,<sup>1</sup> Dave Singh,<sup>2</sup> Sam Lindgren,<sup>3</sup> Gun Almqvist,<sup>3</sup>  
Barbara Young,<sup>4</sup> Brian O'Connor<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Respiratory Clinical Trials, London, United Kingdom;

<sup>2</sup>Medicines Evaluation Unit Ltd, University of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom;

<sup>3</sup>AstraZeneca R&D, Mölndal, Sweden;

<sup>4</sup>AstraZeneca R&D Charnwood, Loughborough, United Kingdom



# Inhaled Allergen Challenge

Very mild  
asthma

Inhaled  
AG

FEV<sub>1</sub>

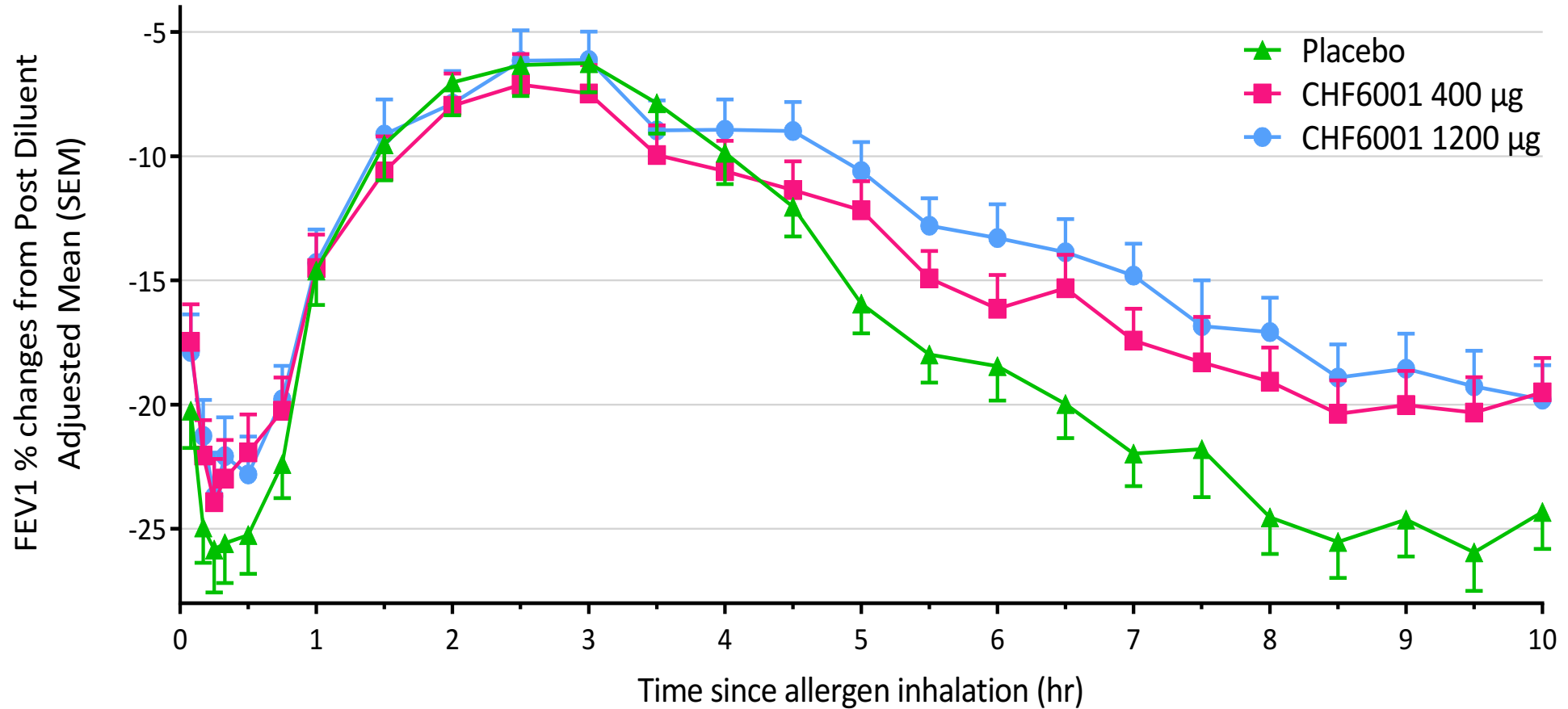
**Proof of Concept for  
anti-inflammatories in asthma**

**Early AR**  
0-2 h  
mast cell

**Late Asthmatic  
Reaction**  
4-10 h  
multiple cells ?

**24h  
Sputum  
AHR**

**Allergen response to inhaled allergen challenge after 9 days of treatment with  
Inhaled PDE4 (CHF6001) 400µg, 1200µg or placebo**



# Background

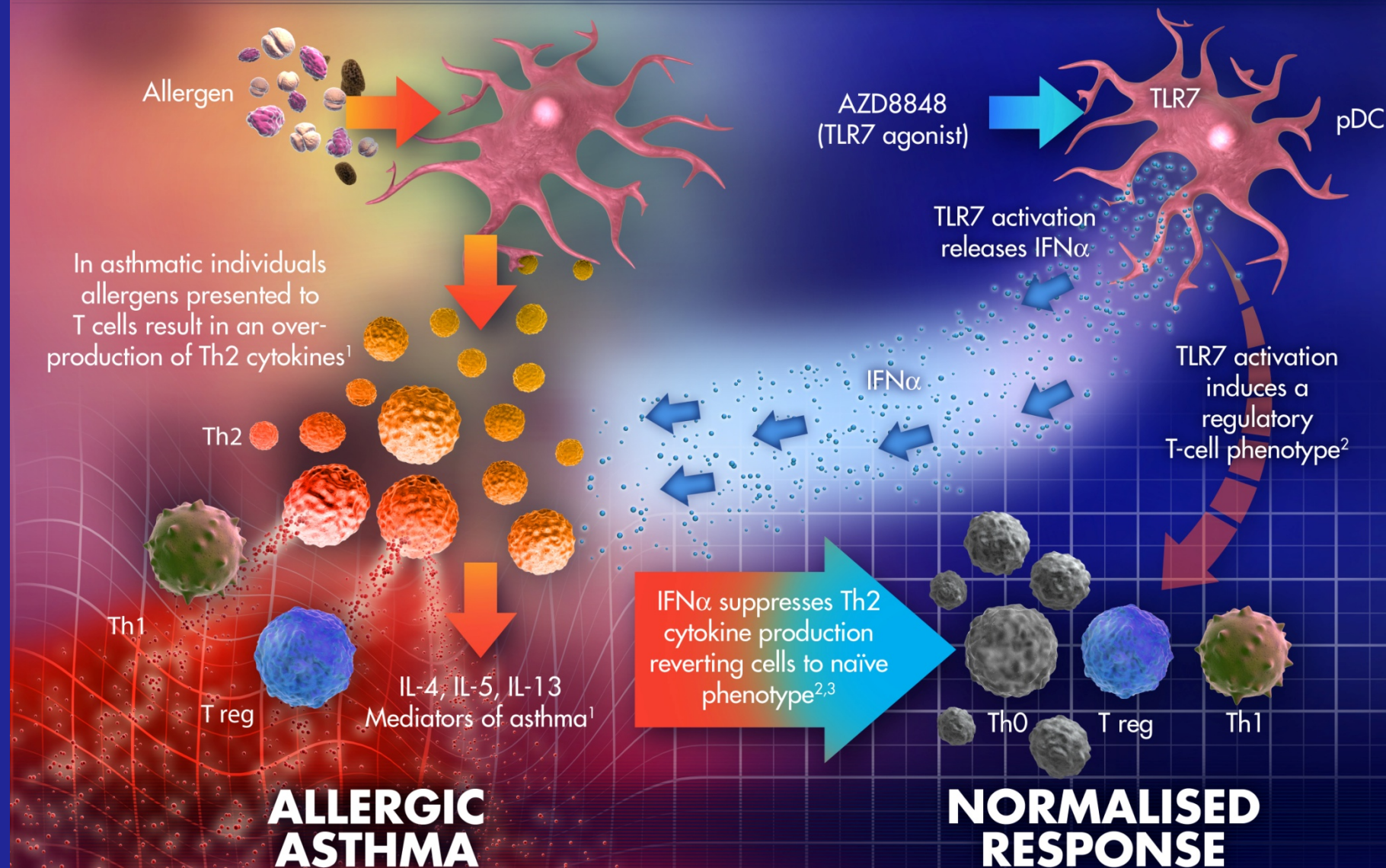
- AZD8848 is a TLR7 agonist being evaluated for the treatment of asthma and allergic rhinitis
- Activation of TLR7 by agonists such as AZD8848<sup>3</sup>
  - Stimulates the innate immune response
  - Down-regulates the Th2 adaptive response, inhibiting the inflammatory cytokine cascade

# Pharmacokinetics of AZD8848

- A metabolically labile ester rapidly converted to weakly active form in plasma
  - Minimises systemic exposure
  - Limits Th1 immune activation and flu-like adverse effects
- No local inflammation with nasal administration
  - Localised to where it is dosed: nose and/or lungs

# Proposed mechanism of action of AZD8848 in asthma

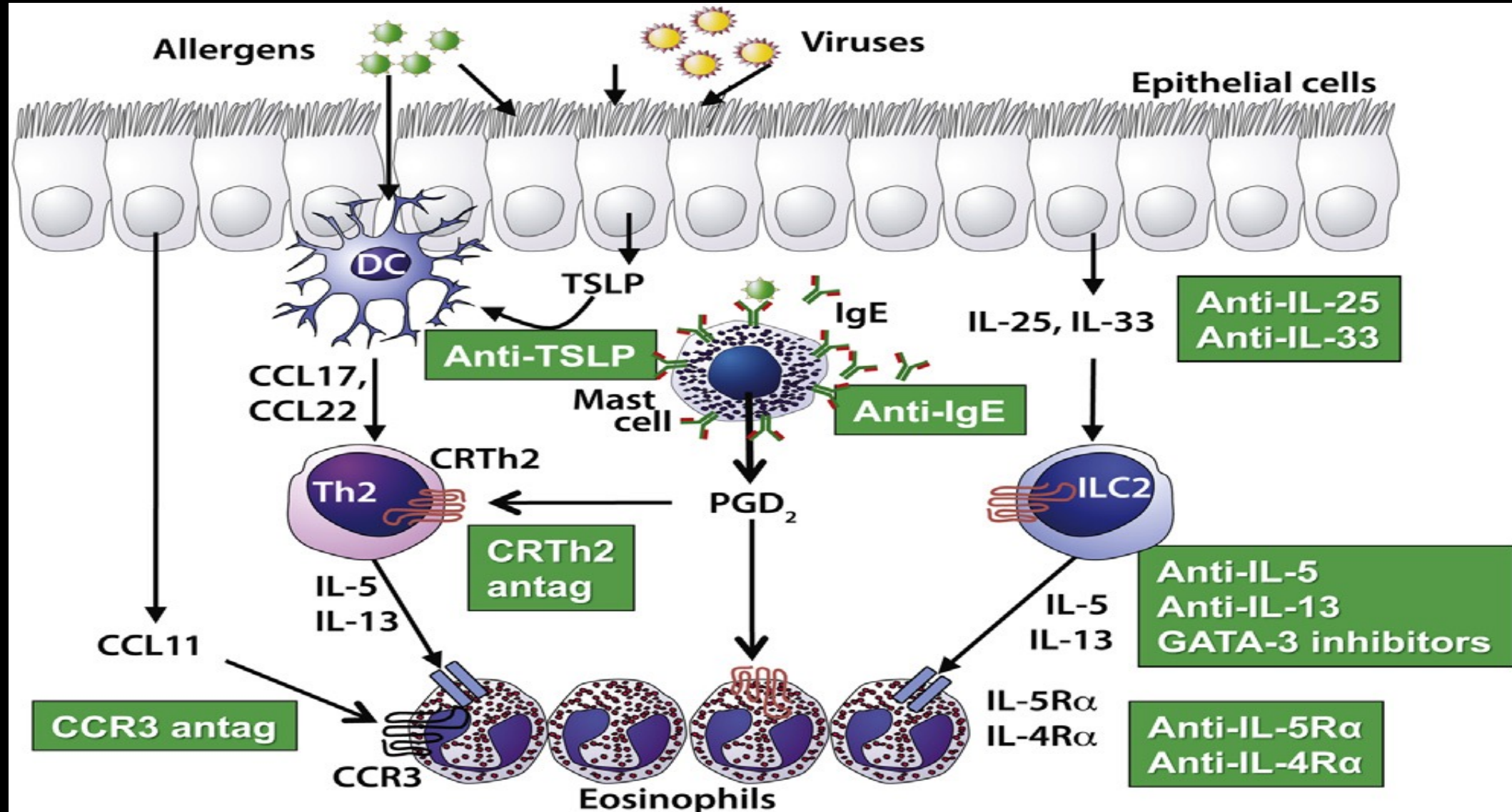
Hypothesis: AZD8848 rebalances the adaptive immune response leading to sustained asthma control



1. Holgate Clin Exp Allergy 2008; 38: 872-897. 2. Biffen et al Br J Pharmacology 2012; 166: 573-586. 3. Shibuya et al J Allergy Clin Immunol 2005; 116: 205-12.



# Targets for TH2 mediated inflammation



# Study objectives

## **Primary objective:**

- To evaluate the efficacy of AZD8848 on the Late Asthmatic Response (LAR) compared with placebo after 8 doses of once weekly intranasal administration in mild to moderate allergic asthma patients challenged with inhaled allergen

## **Secondary objectives:**

- To evaluate the efficacy of AZD8848 as measured by the
  - Early Asthmatic Response (EAR)
  - Bronchial reactivity (methacholine PC<sub>20</sub>)
  - Sputum biomarkers.
- To investigate tolerability and safety of AZD8848
- To investigate plasma concentrations of the acid metabolite around C<sub>max</sub> after the first and last dose of AZD8848 (concentrations represent the sum of AZD8848 and acid metabolite)



# Patient inclusion/exclusion criteria

## Inclusions

- GINA-defined mild-to-moderate asthma<sup>1</sup> for  $\geq 6$  months
- Positive SPT to grass/house dust mite/cat dander in previous 24 months
- $FEV_1 > 70\%$  of predicted normal
- EAR with  $\geq 20\%$   $FEV_1$  decrease within 2 h of allergen challenge
- LAR with  $\geq 15\%$   $FEV_1$  decrease at 4–10 h of allergen challenge
- Methacholine  $PC_{20} < 16$  mg/mL

## Exclusions

- Symptomatic allergic rhinitis
- Treatment with ICS  $\pm$  LABA 4 weeks before first study visit
- Use of antihistamines within 1 week or systemic corticosteroids within 6 weeks
- Respiratory tract infection within 2 weeks
- Asthma exacerbation within 4 weeks

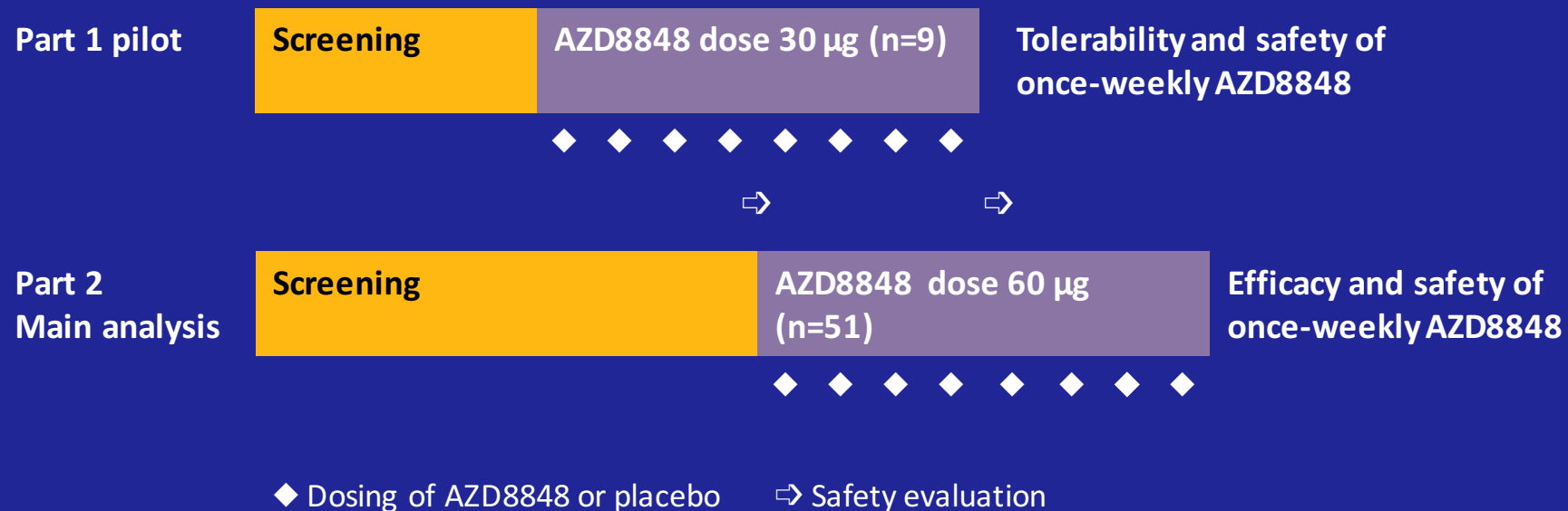
EAR = early asthmatic response;  $FEV_1$ , forced expiratory volume in 1 s;  
GINA = Global Initiative for Asthma; ICS = inhaled corticosteroid;  
LABA = long-acting  $\beta_2$ -agonist;  $PC_{20}$  = provocation concentration causing a 20% fall in  $FEV_1$ ; SPT, skin-prick test

1. GINA guidelines, 2008 revision. Available at:  
<http://www.ginasthma.com/GuidelinesResources.asp?l1=2&l2=0>

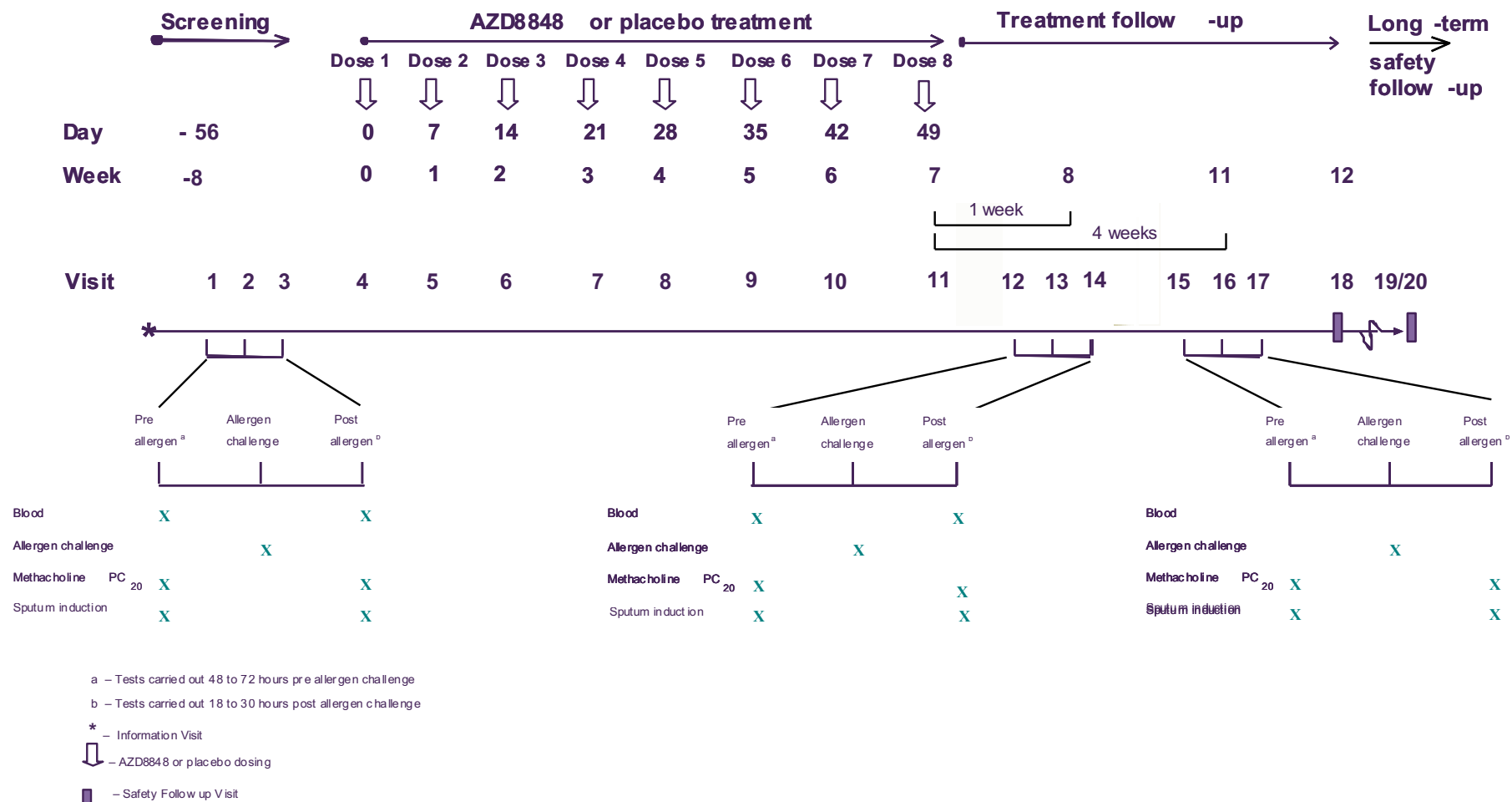


# Double-blind, parallel, randomised, placebo-controlled, phase II study

- Part 1: SRC acceptance of dosing
- Part 2: 8 once-weekly intranasal doses of AZD8848 (60 µg)
  - Assessments at 1 and 4 weeks after last drug dose



# The POLAR study design



# Outcome variables

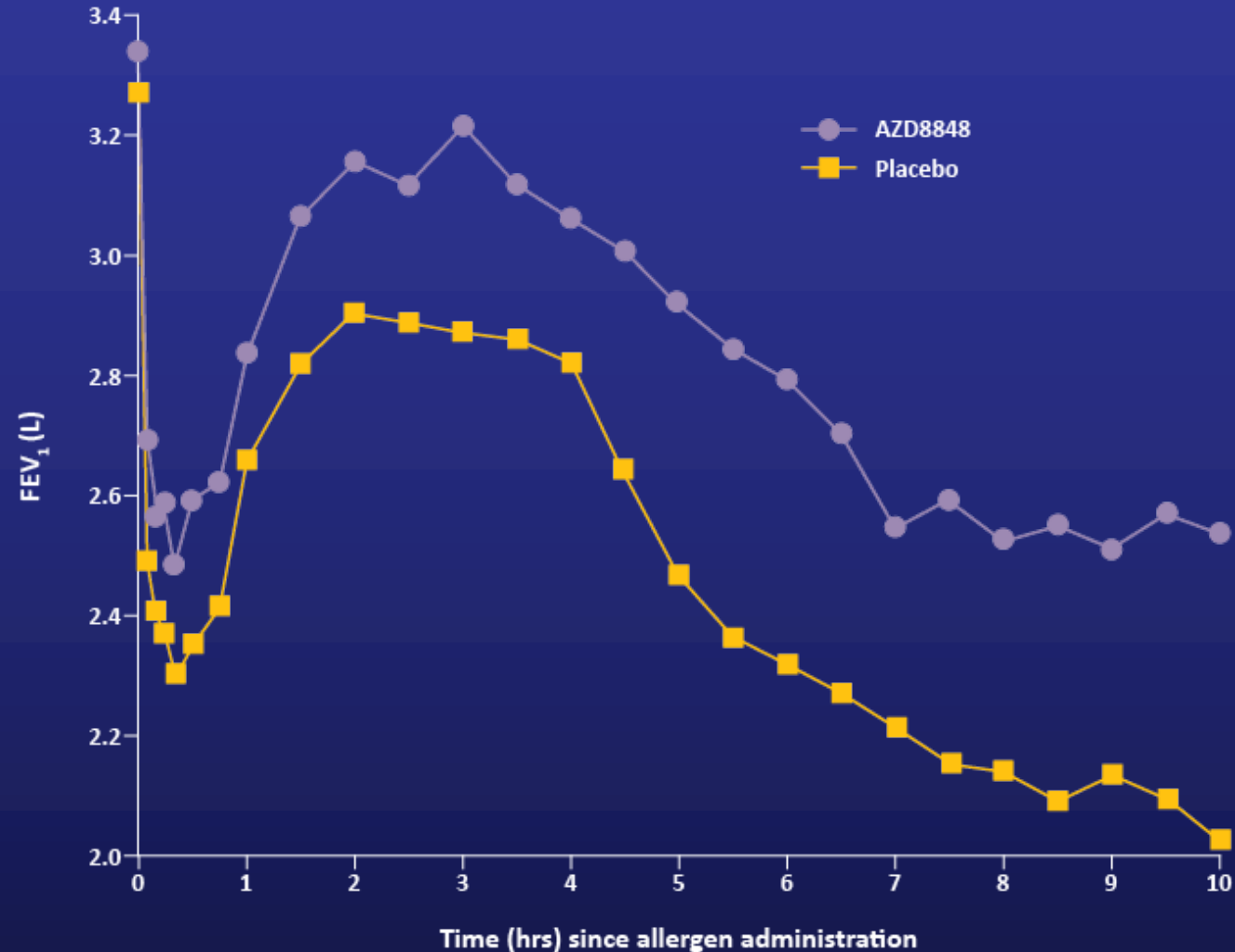
- Primary
  - LAR measured by AUC-based mean fall in  $FEV_1$  at 4–10 hours post-allergen challenge
- Secondary
  - EAR
  - Methacholine  $PC_{20}$
  - Sputum cells and cytokines
  - Safety and tolerability

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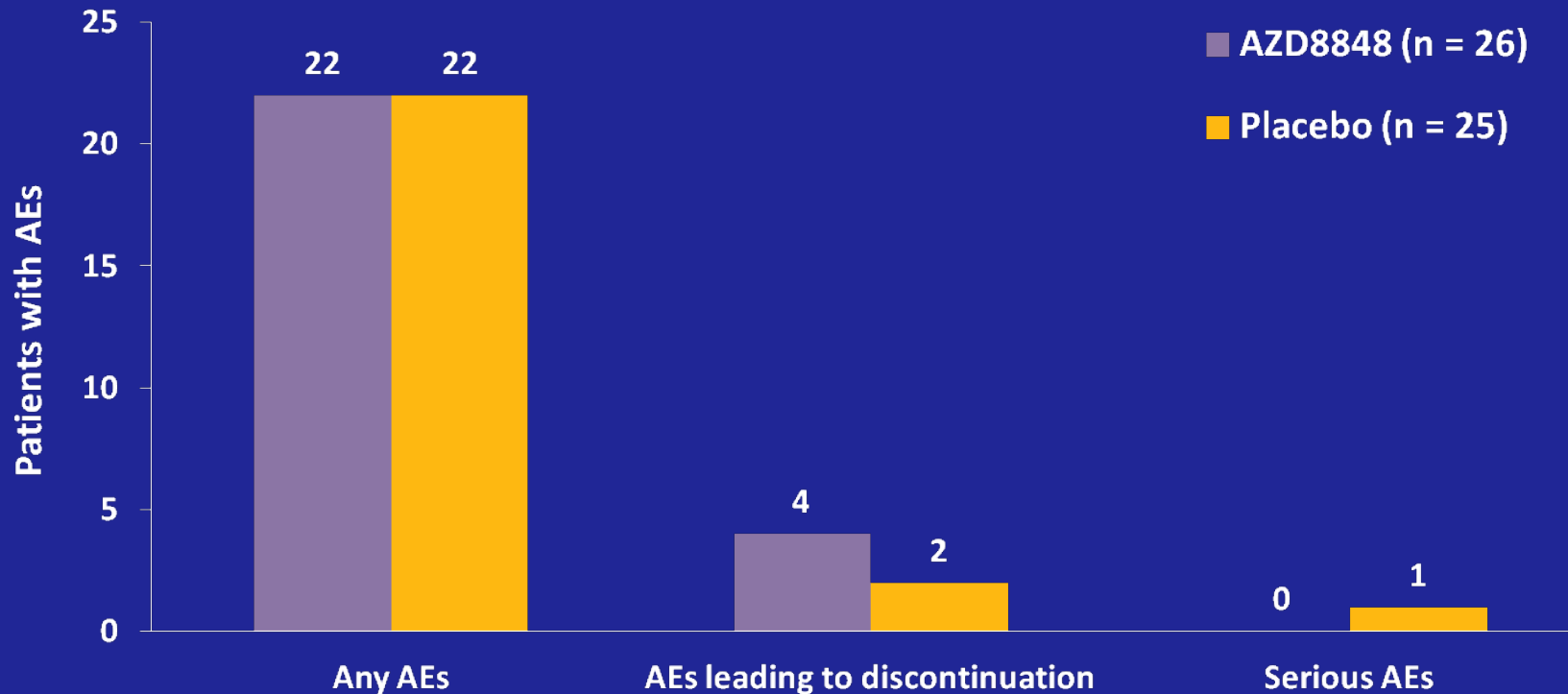
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# Mean FEV<sub>1</sub> after allergen challenge 1 week after end of treatment



# Safety and tolerability

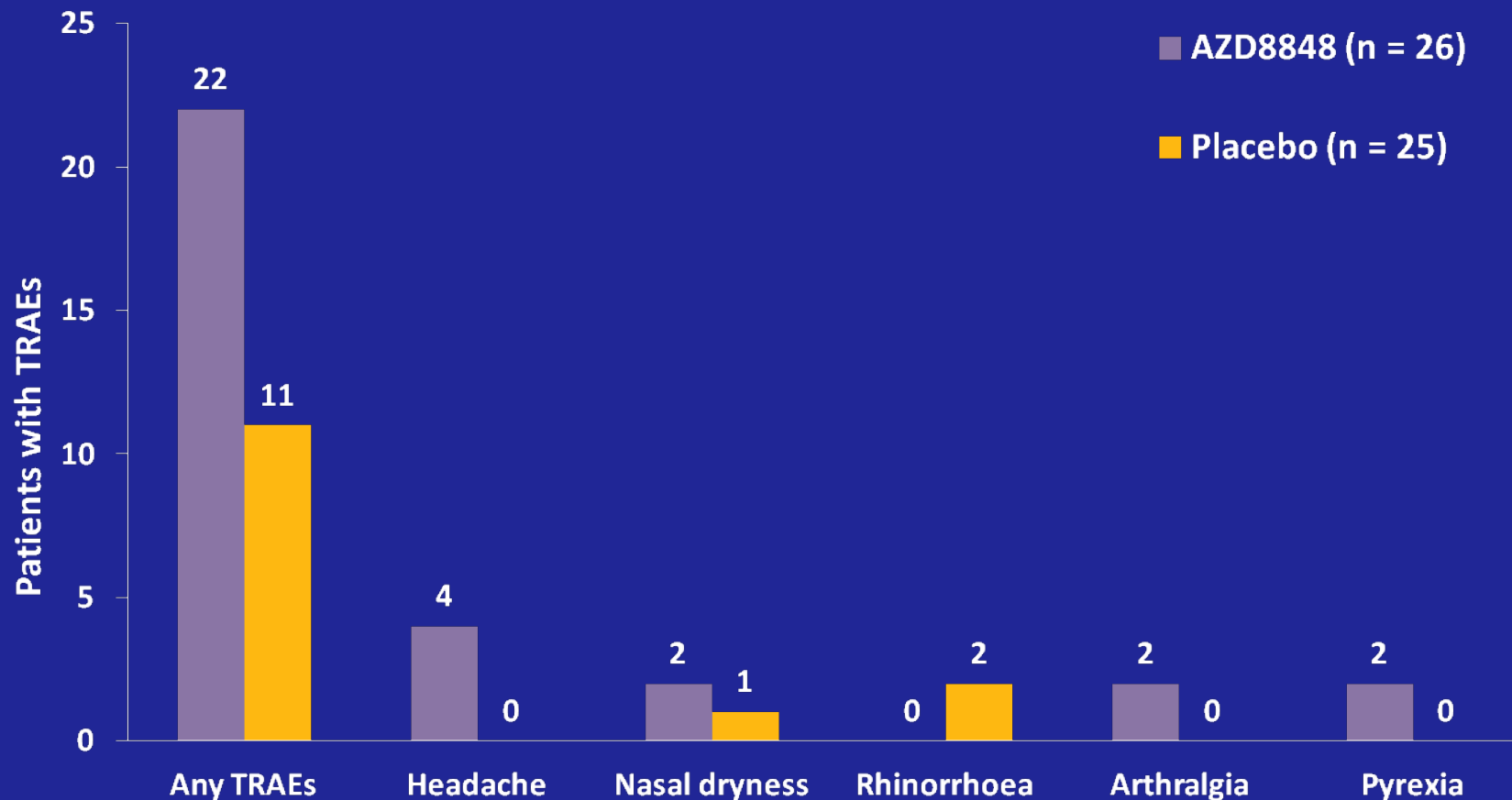
- AZD8848 was generally well tolerated
- A total of 178 AEs reported
- Serious AE in placebo group was severe bacterial tonsillitis
- No clinically relevant changes in ECG or vital signs



AEs = adverse events; ECG, electrocardiography

# Treatment-related adverse events

- Most AEs attributable to AZD8848 were mild in severity



TRAEs reported in  $\geq 2$  patients are shown.  
TRAEs = treatment-related AEs

# Conclusions

At 1 week after 8 weekly doses, intranasal AZD8848

- attenuated allergen-induced LAR
- prevented allergen-induced increases in airway hyperresponsiveness
- LAR response not maintained to 4 weeks after last dose
- Trend to reduction in sputum eosinophils and Th2 cytokines (IL-5, IL-13) before allergen challenge 1 week after last dose
- AZD8848 was generally well tolerated in this dosing schedule
- A TLR7 agonist such as AZD8848 can ameliorate allergen-induced responses in the lower airways





# Inhibition of LPS-induced neutrophilic inflammation in healthy volunteers

BR Leaker, PJ Barnes, B O'Connor

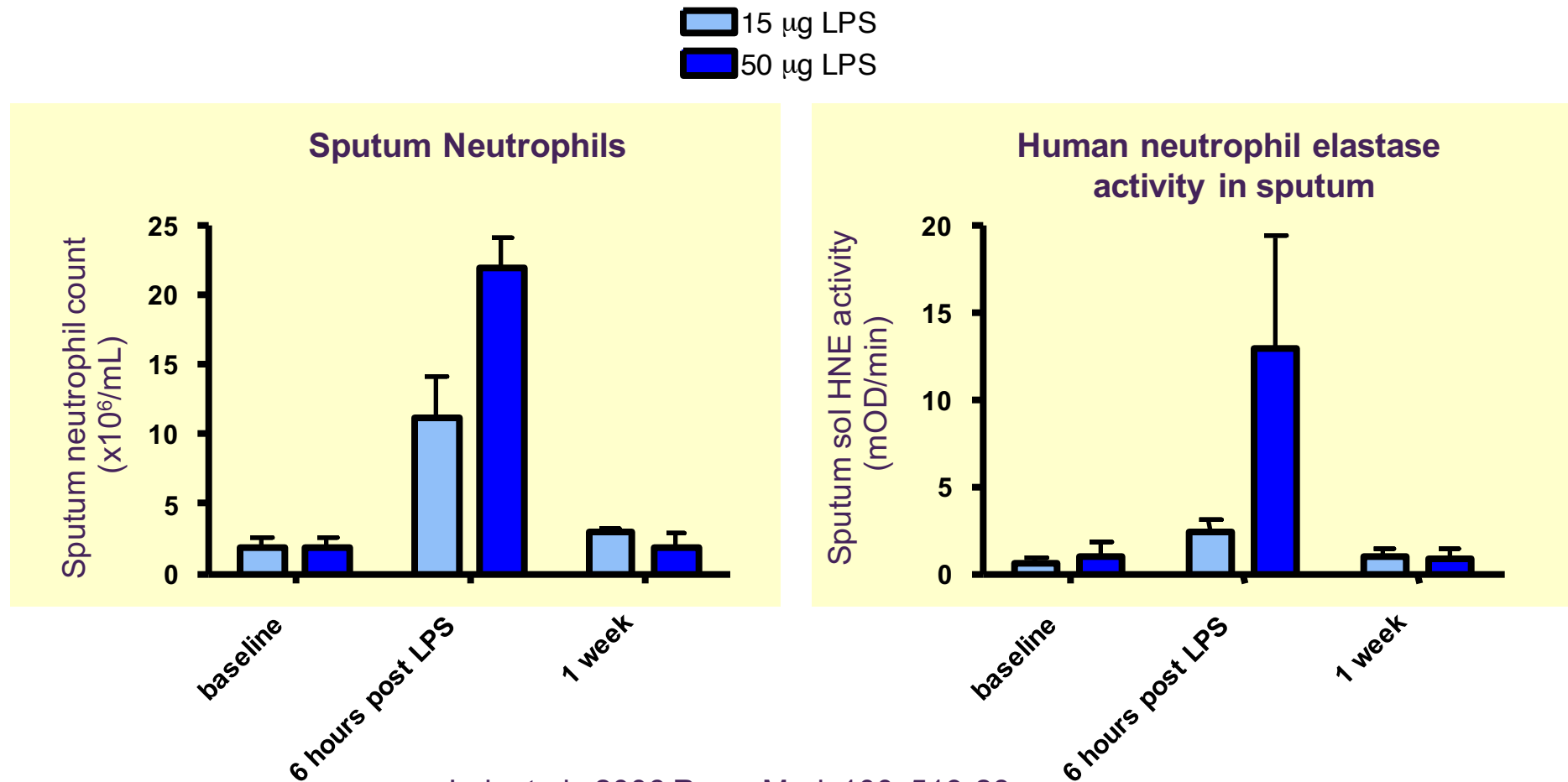
Resp Research 2013

# Aims

- AZD8309 is an orally available, mixed chemokine antagonist (CXCR2 / CCR2b)
  - It inhibits:
    - Human neutrophil chemotaxis *in vitro*
    - LPS-induced airway neutrophilia in animal models *in vivo*
- hypothesis AZD8309 attenuates PMN migration into the lungs
- Inhaled LPS a model of acute airway neutrophilia in man to test the efficacy of oral treatment with AZD8309

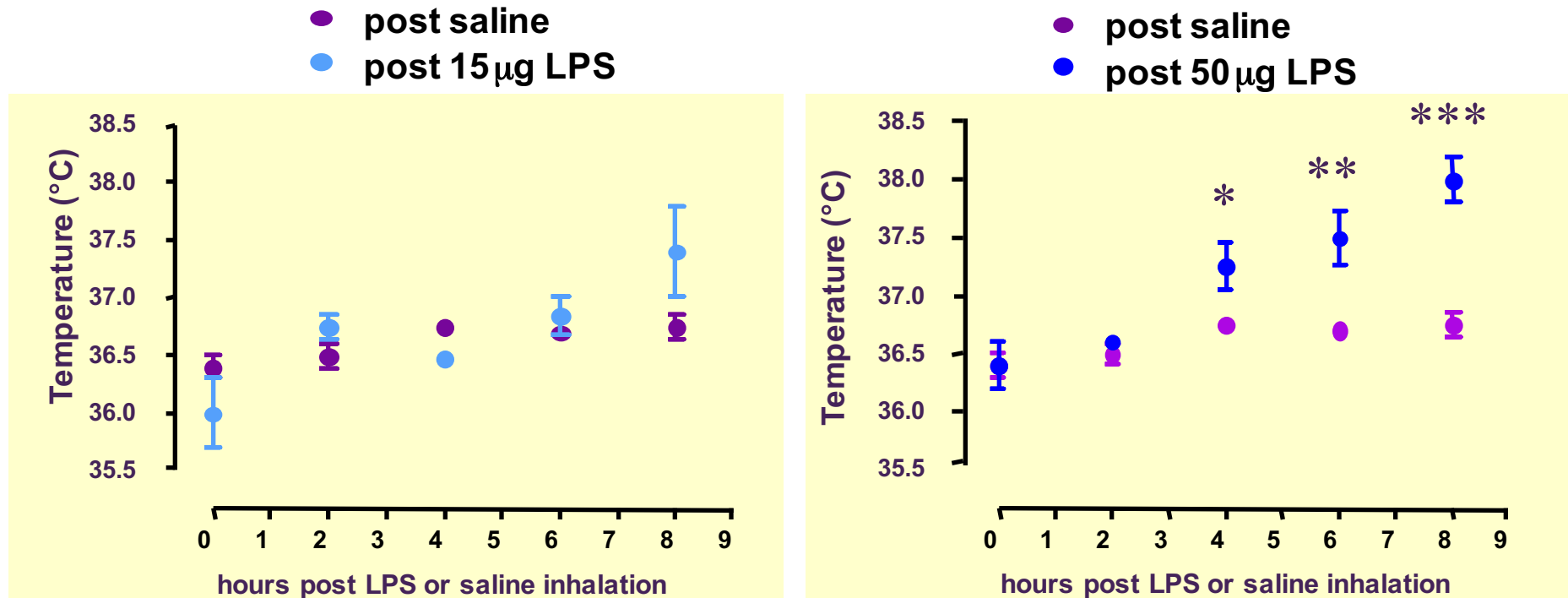
# Effect of LPS challenge in the airways

- LPS gives a dose-dependent, transient increase in neutrophil numbers and inflammatory mediators in sputum



# Systemic effects

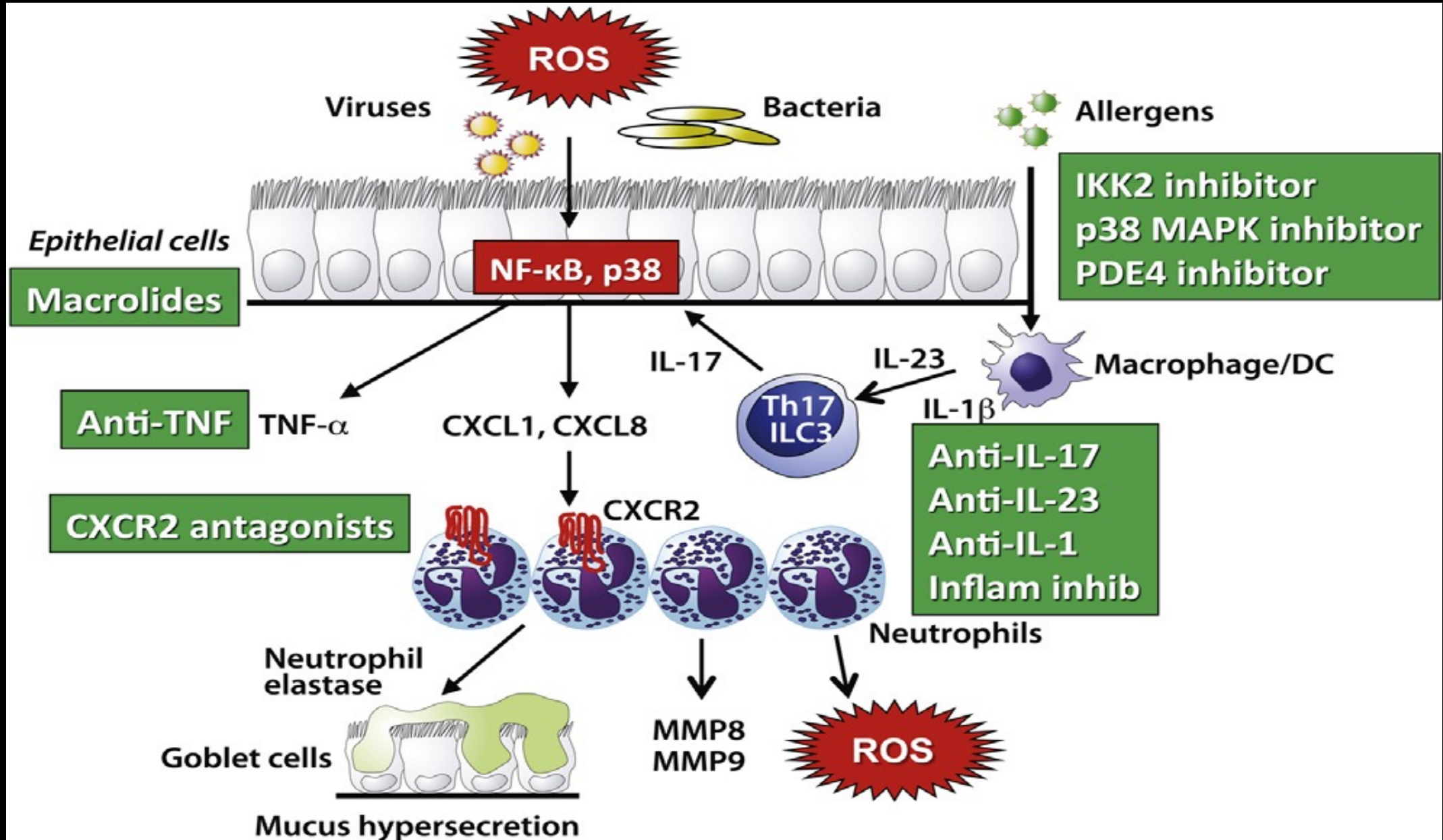
- Inhalation of LPS induces a dose dependent increase in body temperature
- The effects on body temperature limit the LPS challenge dose



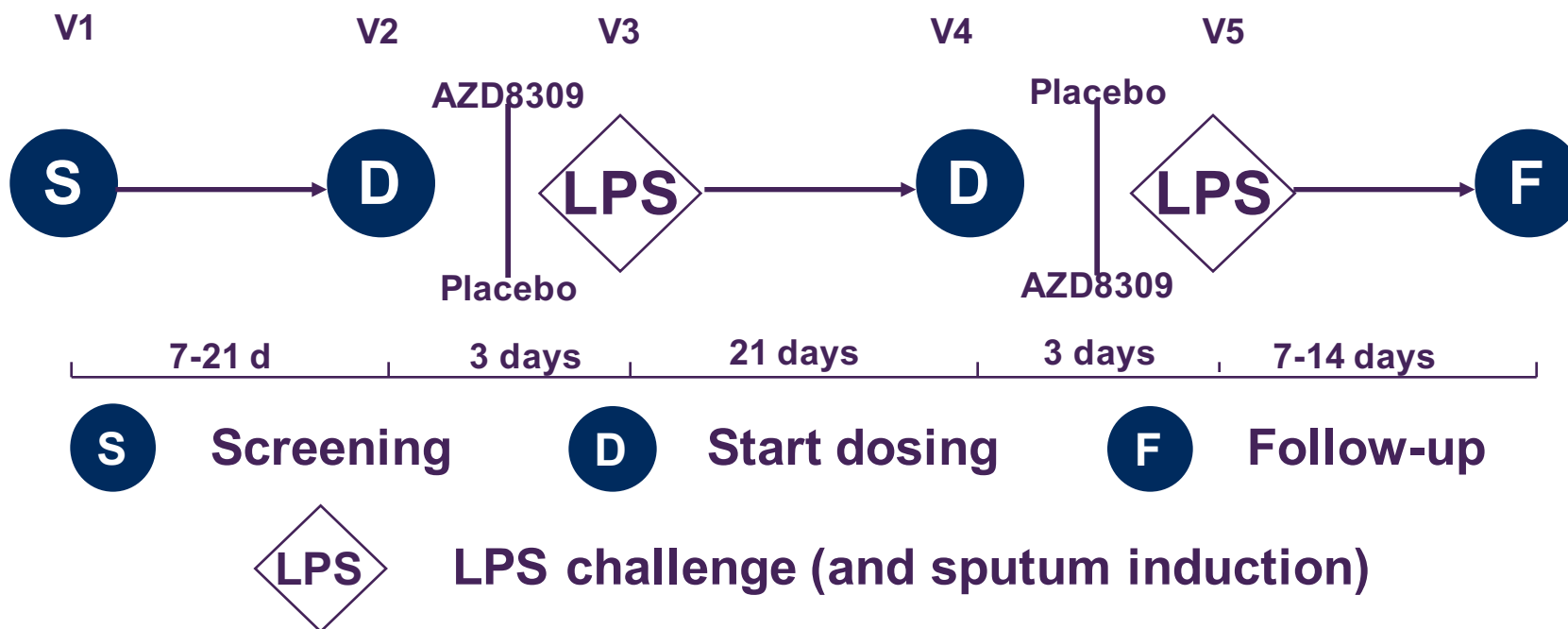
# Utility of the LPS challenge model

- The acute LPS model shows some similarities with the inflammatory profile observed in lung diseases such as COPD
  - Raised neutrophil numbers in sputum
  - Increased IL-8, HNE, LTB4 in sputum
- It provides a model of airway neutrophilic inflammation for evaluating new compounds
- The relevance of the LPS model for predicting efficacy in COPD is yet to be established

# Targets for PMN mediated inflammation



# Study design



- This was randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, two-way crossover study in healthy volunteers
- Study powered to detect a 50% reduction in sputum neutrophil numbers with a power of at least 80% when testing at the 5% level (2-sided test)
- 16 subjects were required to complete the study



# Inclusion Criteria

- Healthy volunteers aged 18 – 50
- Non-smokers, or ex-smokers (not smoked in the previous 12 months with a <10 pack-year history)
- $FEV_1 \geq 80\%$  predicted normal &  $FEV_1/FVC$  ratio  $>70\%$
- Normal response to inhaled methacholine:  $PC_{20} \geq 16$  mg/mL
- Able to produce a minimum of 200  $\mu$ L sputum volume at screening
- Sputum eosinophilia  $<2\%$
- Sputum neutrophilia  $<80\%$

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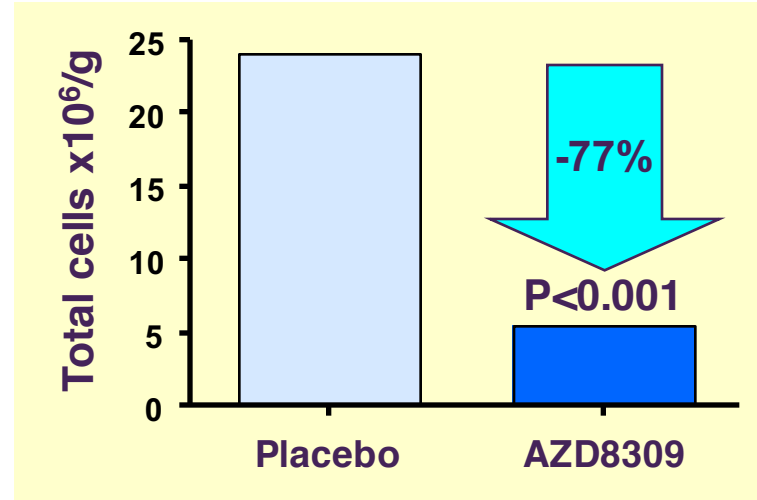
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# Study Demographics

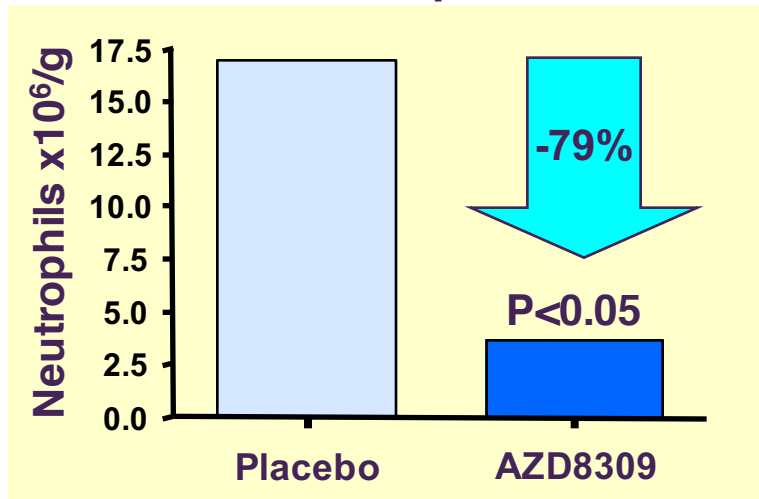
- 20 subjects randomised
  - 3 past smokers
- 16 subjects completed
- No subjects withdrew due to adverse effects of AZD8309 or the LPS challenge
  - 2 for entering other trials
  - 1 on placebo with migraine
  - 1 withdrew prior to dosing

# Results: Sputum Cells

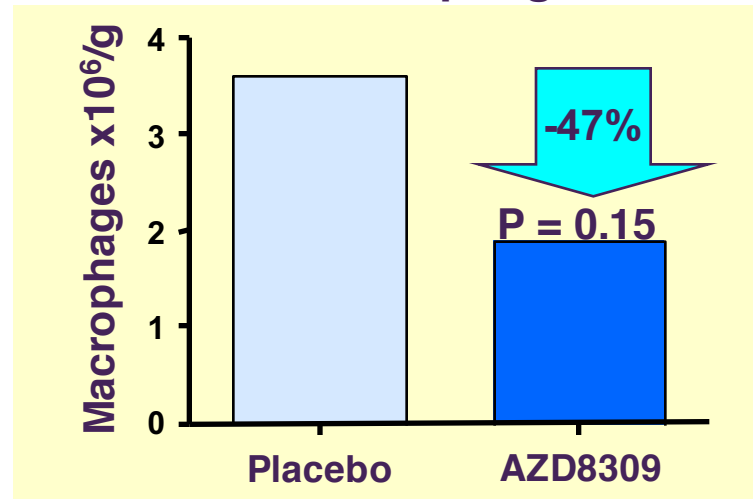
## Total Cells



## Neutrophils

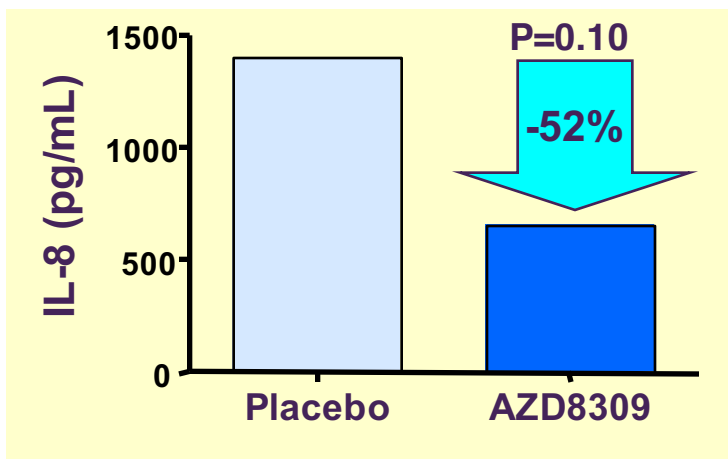


## Macrophages

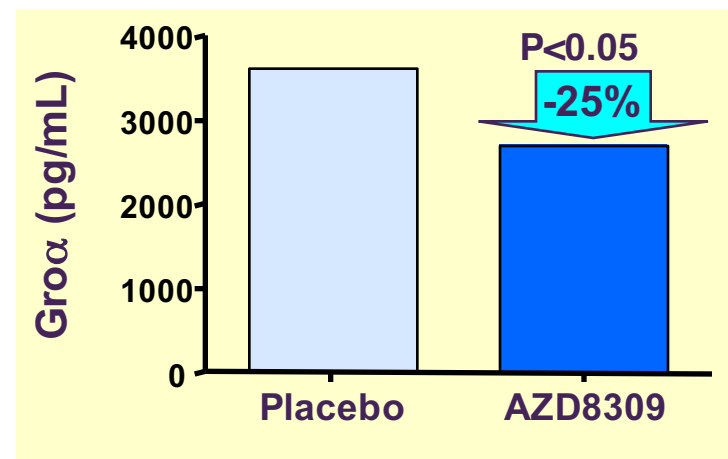


# Results: Inflammatory Markers

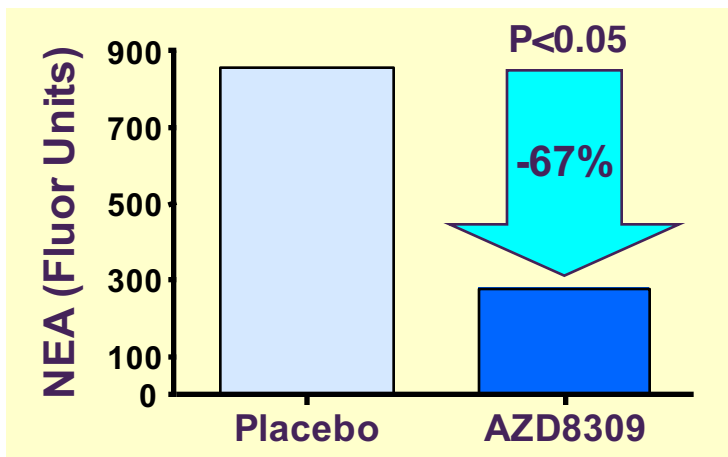
## IL-8



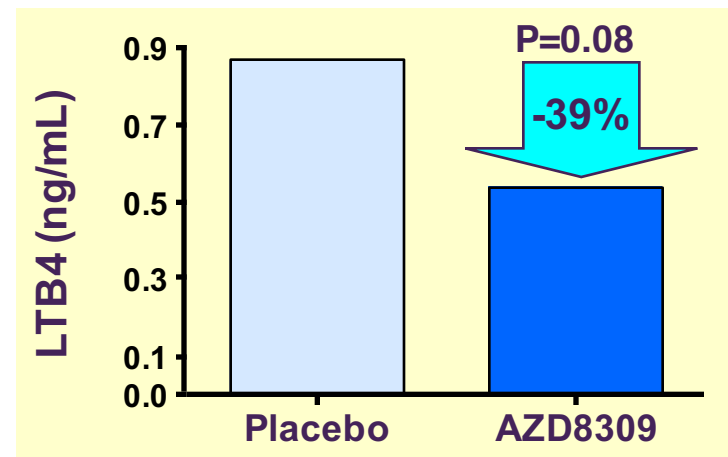
## Gro $\alpha$



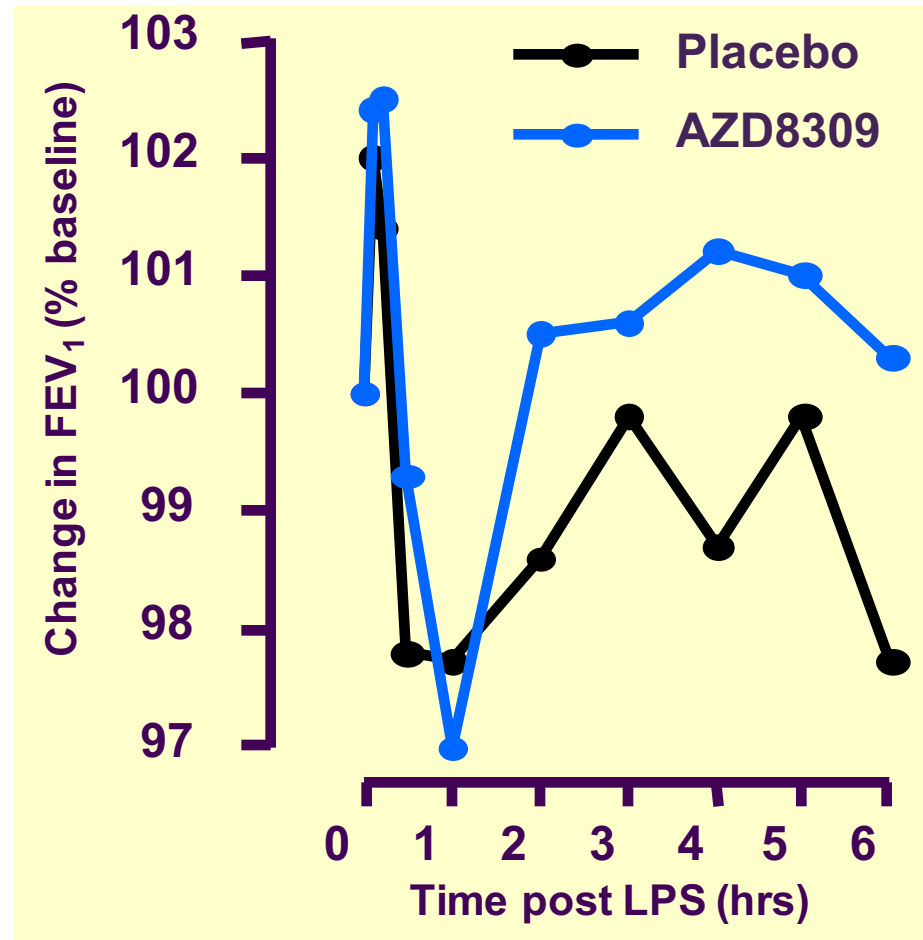
## NEA



## LTB4



# Results: Effect on Lung Function



- LPS-induced initial fall in FEV<sub>1</sub> was similar for AZD8309 and placebo
- AUC of FEV<sub>1</sub> over 6 hours was greater with AZD8309 compared with placebo ( $p < 0.05$ )

# Results: Adverse Events

	AZD8309 (N=18)	Placebo (N=19)
No. (%) of subjects with DAE	0	1 (5%)
No. AEs	19	28
No. (%) of subjects with AEs	14 (61%)	10 (53%)
AEs by preferred term	N=18	N=18
pyrexia	5 (28%)	3 (17%)
headache	2 (11%)	4 (22%)
dizziness	0	3 (17%)
nasal congestion	2 (11%)	3 (17%)
diarrhoea	3 (17%)	1 (6%)
rhinitis	0	2 (11%)
pharyngolaryngeal pain	0	2 (11%)

# Summary

- Following LPS challenge in healthy subjects
  - AZD8309 reduced neutrophil numbers in sputum
  - AZD8309 reduced sputum levels of
    - IL-8, LTB4, Gro $\alpha$  and neutrophil elastase activity
- There were no adverse events to an LPS challenge of 30  $\mu$ g or treatment with AZD8309
- This model successfully demonstrated efficacy of an anti-neutrophil target in man
  - Uses small numbers of healthy subjects
  - Short, simple challenge procedure
  - Challenge agent (30 $\mu$ g LPS) well tolerated



# CXCR2 antagonists in COPD (Navarixin)



- Dose response study versus placebo n=616.
- Reduction in sputum neutrophils by >50% at 3/12
  - trend at 6/12.
- Increased FEV<sub>1</sub> overall 67ml versus placebo.
- Significant improvement in FEV<sub>1</sub> in smoking subgroup (n=58) 168ml.
- Significant neutropenia (<1.5 x10<sup>9</sup>/L) and AEs (18% withdrawal with 50mg dose versus 1% with placebo).
- Rennard et al. AJRCCM 2015; 191:1001

Spare slides