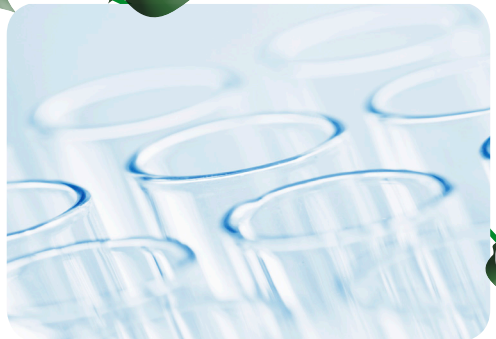
Angiotensin AT2 receptor (AT2R) agonists - a new drug class



vicore pharma

The company

Vicore Pharma is a drug-development company at the international cutting edge of research on the AT2 receptor. The company's portfolio contains small molecules with potential indications including anti-inflammation, neuroprotection, neuro regeneration and cardiovascular disease.

Vicore Pharma's prime product candidate C21 shows excellent oral bioavailability, specificity and solubility.

Vicore Pharma has an experienced management team and exceptional scientific partners. Clinical, pharmacological and biological expertise is provided by Professor Thomas Unger, Maastricht University, Associate Professor Ulrike Steckelings, Odense University hospital, Denmark, and by Associate Professor Björn Dahlöf and fellow clinicians at Sahlgrenska University Hospital in Gothenburg, Sweden.

Medicinal chemistry is performed at Uppsala University, Sweden, under the supervision of Professor Anders Hallberg and Professor Mats Larhed.

Achievements

- ✓ Target validated
- ✓ Lead candidate identified
- ✓ Candidate optimized
- ✓ Product Candidate selected and validated
- ✓ GMP production
- ✓ Therapeutic potential proven
- ✓ Pre-clinical acute toxicity completed
- ✓ Broad preclinical exploratory program ongoing
- ✓ Full Pre IND toxicology program ongoing.
- ✓ Studies ongoing

Business idea

Our vision is to lead the development of new molecules with agonistic action to the AT2 receptor into successful clinical drug entities creating a new class of drugs.

The company will pioneer exploration of AT2 activation, and commercialize the clinical potential in the different fields where AT2 agonism addresses significant but yet unmet medical needs, such as the consequences of cardiovascular disease and neurological disorders through strategic alliances with Big Pharma.

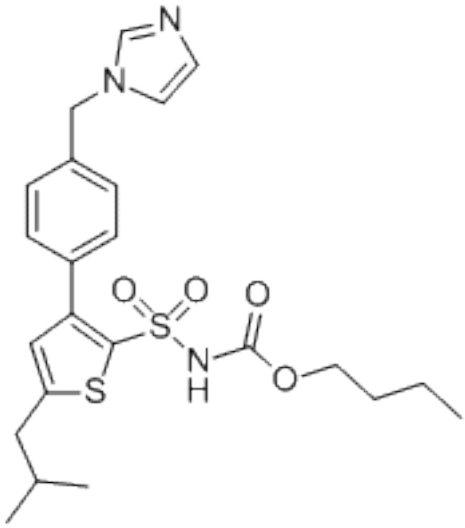
Portfolio

Vicore Pharma has designed, synthesised and patented a unique collection of small non-peptide molecules suitable for development into a clinically important and commercially attractive new class of drugs.

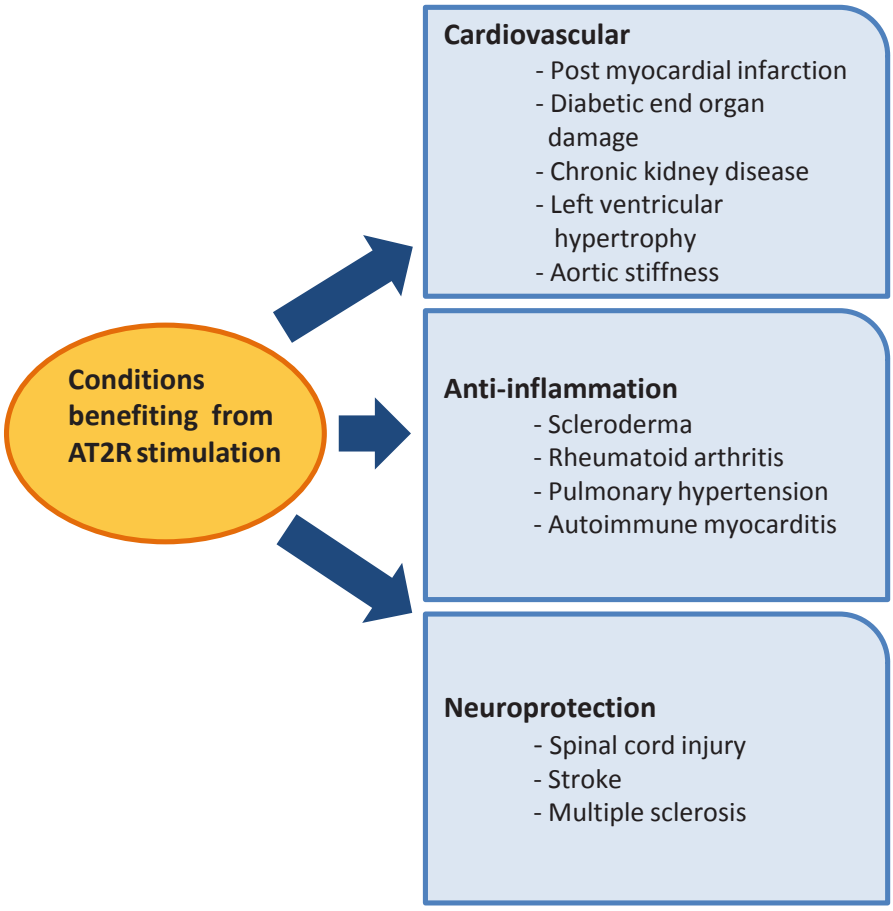
These molecules exert their effect within the Renin Angiotensin System (RAS). More precisely, they stimulate the AT2 receptor (so-called "AT2 agonism"), which is a unique approach to modulation of the system.

The prime candidate drug, "Compound 21" or "C21", emerged from an extensive medicinal chemistry program, chosen from a large number of patent protected AT2 agonists. In in vitro pharmacokinetic studies, scale-up of the chemical synthesis of C21 and preparation for regulatory safety (toxicity) studies have been performed.

The chemical and pharmaceutical (including pharmacokinetic) properties of C21 render it well-suited for both oral and intravenous administration.



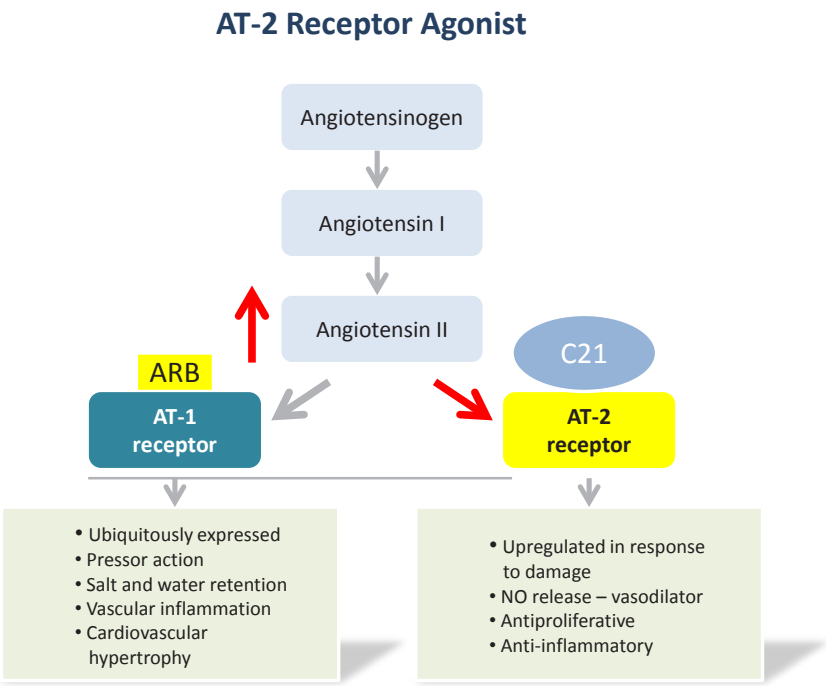
A broad therapeutic platform



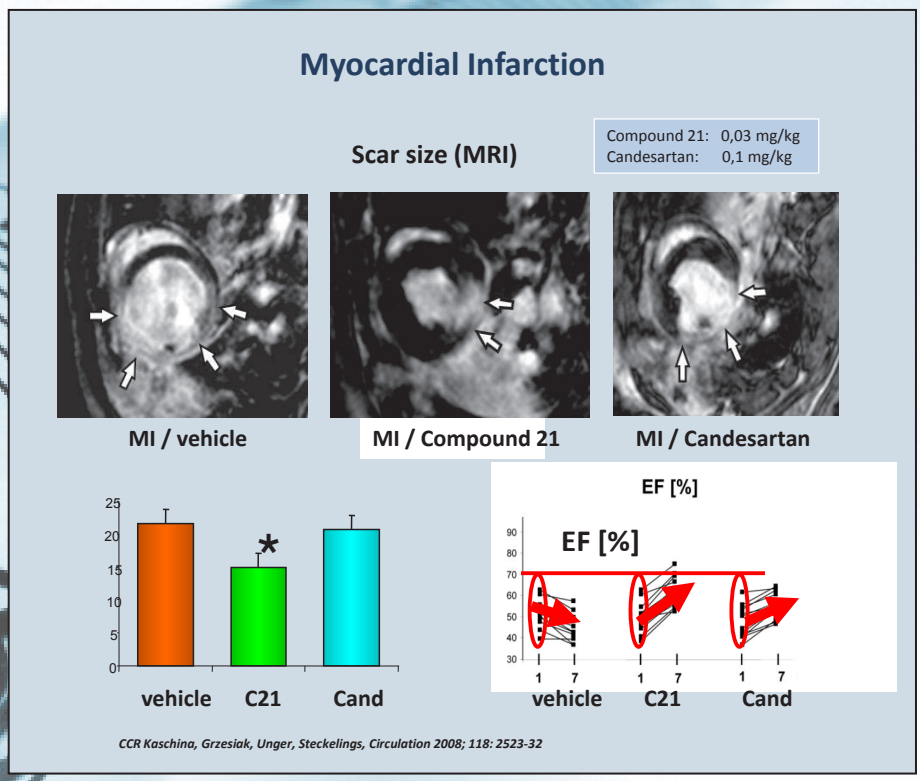
The AT2 receptor - a basis for the AT2 receptor agonism platform

Exploration of the function of the AT2 receptor, as well as investigation of the medical potential of AT2 agonistic molecule entities have both been an important target of academic research for the past 10-15 years. The AT2 receptor is expressed and activated in the fetus where it supports organ development and differentiation, and in damaged adult tissue where it restitutes morphology and function, restores heart function after myocardial infarction, reduces inflammation, regenerates neural tissue - to mention but a few of the beneficial effects.

Chronic inflammation is a key pathological expression in many disease areas which require pharmacological treatment for long periods of time, e.g. neurological diseases, skin diseases and diseases of the central internal organs. C21 has in preclinical research demonstrated potent anti-inflammatory capabilities for a number of these disease areas.



*Presented by **Prof Bryan Williams, University College London***
At PACE Snapshot meeting, August 24, 2012 in Munich



Example of preclinical data

Collaboration possibilities

Pharmaceutical Industry
The company is open to discussing licensing possibilities to the company's proprietary substances.

Investors
The company is open to inviting new shareholders to the company.

Research institutions
The company can provide non-GMP material for experimental research.

Intellectual Property

The company holds patent families for compounds with AT2R agonists.

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