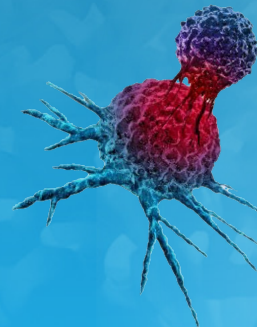


# Targeting Biological Synergy at the Receptor Level: Multi-specific Cytokine Inhibitors



**Cytokine Based  
Drug Development  
Summit**

July 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> 2022, Boston, MA

# Forward-Looking Statements

This presentation contains forward-looking statements about Equillum, Inc. (the “Company”). In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by the words “will,” “expect,” “intend,” “plan,” “objective,” “believe,” “estimate,” “potential,” “continue” and “ongoing,” or the negative of these terms, or other comparable terminology intended to identify statements about the future. These statements are based on Company management’s current beliefs and expectations. These statements include but are not limited to statements regarding the Company’s business strategy, the Company’s plans to develop and commercialize its product candidates, the safety and efficacy of the Company’s product candidates, the Company’s plans and expected timing with respect to regulatory filings and approvals, size and growth potential of the markets for the Company’s product candidates and cash runway. These statements involve substantial known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause the Company’s actual results, levels of activity, performance or achievements to be materially different from the information expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements. The Company may not actually achieve the plans, intentions or expectations disclosed in its forward-looking statements, and you should not place undue reliance on the Company’s forward-looking statements.

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# Cytokine Signaling – A Complex and Combinatorial Issue

This same complexity shown in how cytokines signal to regulate immune homeostasis presents unique drug development challenges when treating disease

Three important characteristics of most cytokines are:

1. **Pleiotropy** - the ability of one cytokine to exhibit diverse biological activities
2. **Redundancy** - the ability of multiple cytokines to exert overlapping biological activities
3. **Synergy** - the ability of multiple cytokines to cooperate to change biological activities



e.g., anti-IL-4Ra

## Use of shared receptors

Common  $\gamma$ -chain ( $\gamma c$ ), GP130, beta chain ( $\beta$ chain)

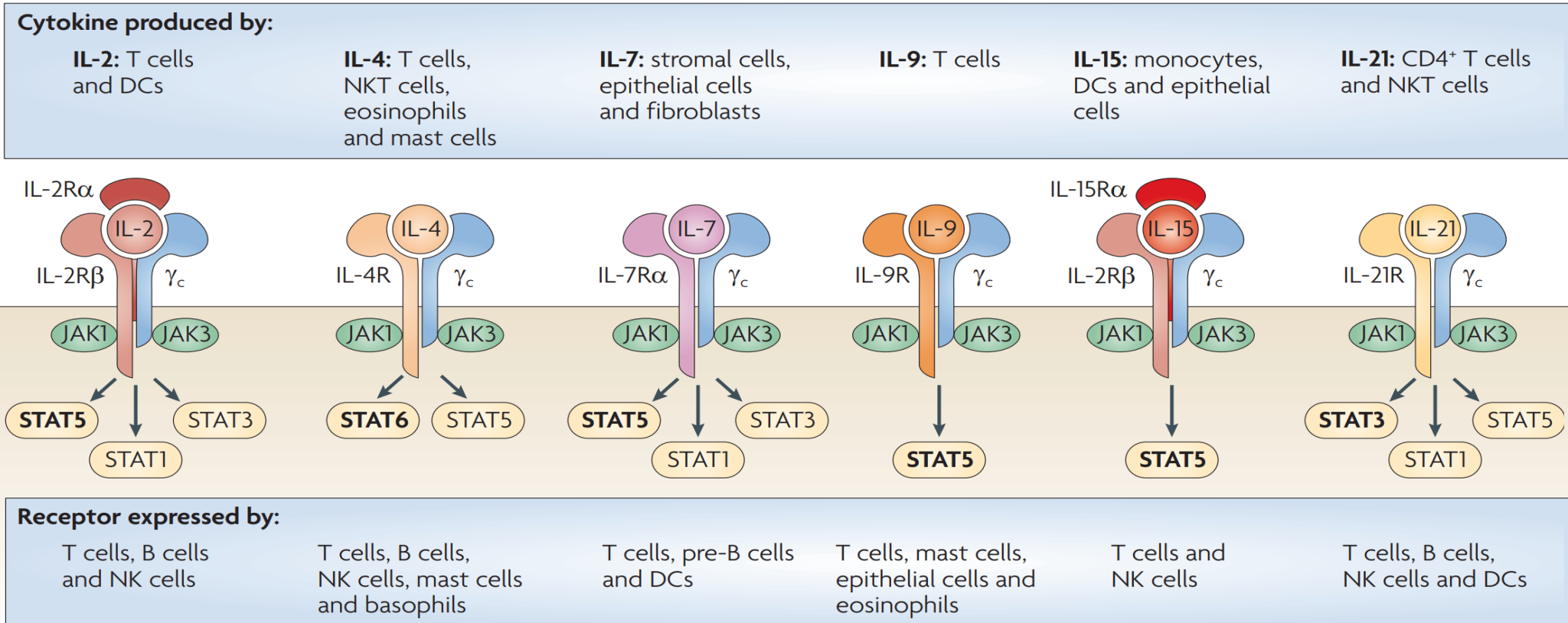
## Balance of intra- and inter- cellular signals

JAK/STAT, RAF/Erk, PIK3/mTor

e.g., JAK inhibitors

# Targeting the $\gamma_c$ Receptor, a Key Cytokine Signaling Hub

Cytokines signaling through the common gamma ( $\gamma_c$ ) chain exhibit **redundancy** as well as **synergy** that has been shown to be **important to pro-inflammatory disease states**



# Biological Redundancy and Synergy at the $\gamma$ c Receptor

## IL-2 / IL-15

- Overlap in activity of IL-2 / IL-15 on CD8 and NK T cells
- Synergy in between IL-2 and IL-15 in determining cell fate
- Synergy in between cell types expressing IL-2 and IL-15 during inflammation

### ARTICLES

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### IL-15 and IL-2: a matter of life and death for T cells *in vivo*

XIAN CHANG LI<sup>1</sup>, GULCIN DEMIRCI<sup>1</sup>, SYLVIE FERRARI-LACRAZ<sup>1</sup>, CHRIS GROVES<sup>2</sup>, ANTHONY COYLE<sup>2</sup>, THOMAS R. MALEK<sup>3</sup> & TERRY B. STROM<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, Division of Immunology, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

<sup>2</sup>Millennium Pharmaceutical Inc., Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

<sup>3</sup>Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of Miami, Miami, Florida, USA

Correspondence should be addressed to X.C.L.; email: xli@caregroup.harvard.edu

## IL-15 / IL-21

- Synergy in between IL-15 and IL-21 to potently promote the proliferation of both naïve and memory CD8 T cells
- IL-21 enhanced IL-15-induced IFN- $\gamma$  gene expression



### IL-21 in Synergy with IL-15 or IL-18 Enhances IFN- $\gamma$ Production in Human NK and T Cells

Mari Strengell, Sampsa Matikainen, Jukka Sirén, Anne Lehtonen, Don Foster, Ilkka Julkunen and Timo Sareneva

*J Immunol* 2003; 170:5464-5469; ;  
doi: 10.4049/jimmunol.170.11.5464  
<http://www.jimm> JEM

ARTICLE

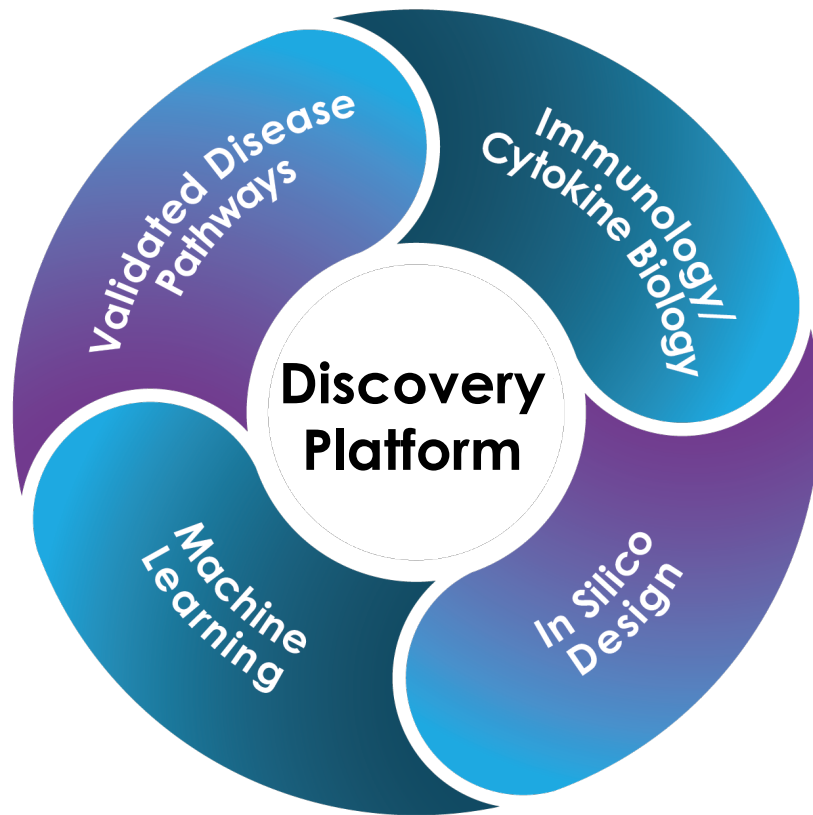
### Synergy of IL-21 and IL-15 in regulating CD8<sup>+</sup> T cell expansion and function

Rong Zeng,<sup>1</sup> Rosanne Spolski,<sup>1</sup> Steven E. Finkelstein,<sup>2</sup> SangKon Oh,<sup>3</sup> Panu E. Kovanen,<sup>1</sup> Christian S. Hinrichs,<sup>2</sup> Cynthia A. Pise-Masison,<sup>4</sup> Michael F. Radonovich,<sup>4</sup> John N. Brady,<sup>4</sup> Nicholas P. Restifo,<sup>2</sup> Jay A. Berzofsky,<sup>3</sup> and Warren J. Leonard<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Laboratory of Molecular Immunology, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, and <sup>2</sup>Surgery Branch, <sup>3</sup>Vaccine Branch, and <sup>4</sup>Laboratory of Cellular Oncology, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD 20892

# Discovery Platform – Multi-cytokine Inhibitors

Novel product platform addresses the limitations of single-target biologics and broadly immunosuppressive therapies (e.g. JAKi) through peptide-based multi-cytokine inhibition

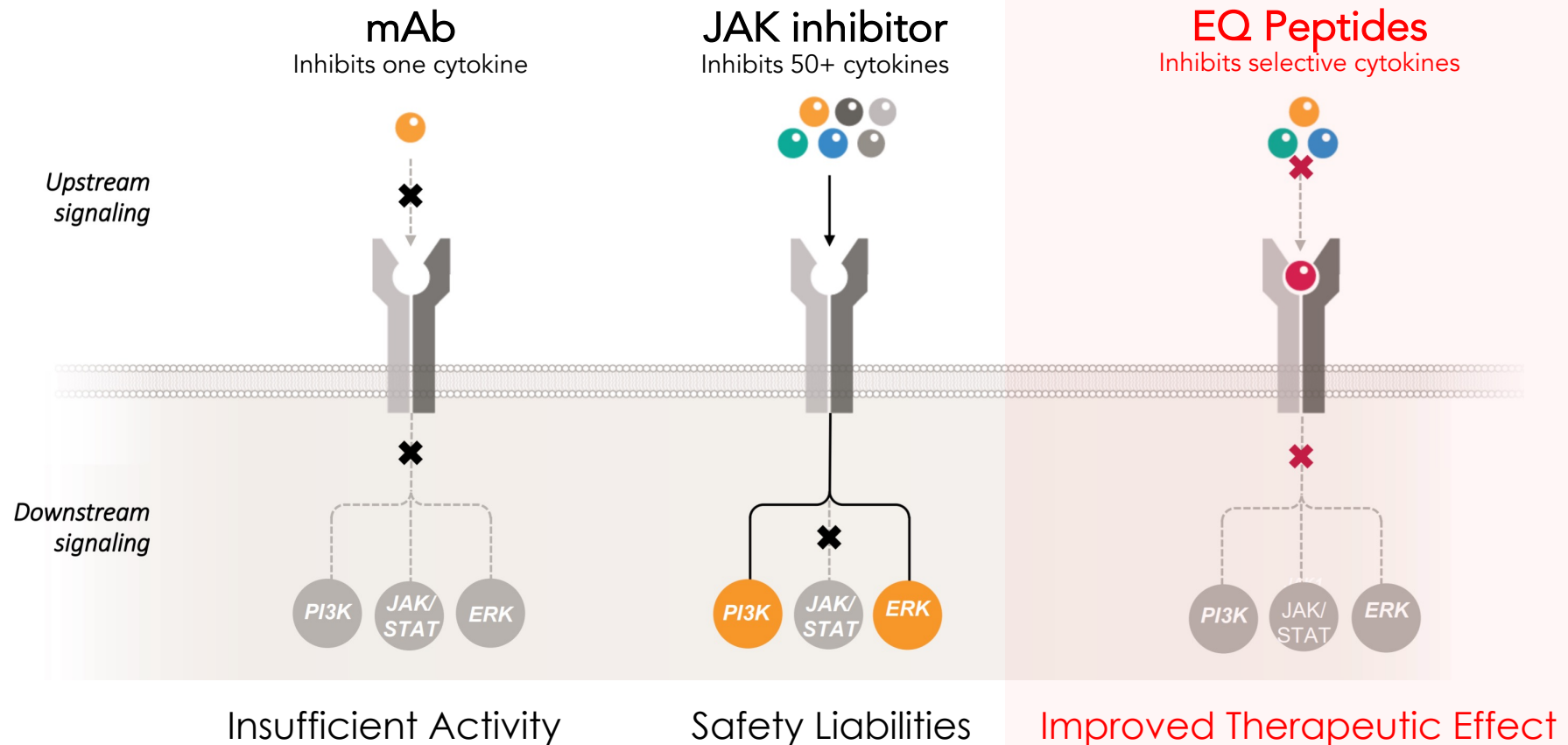


- Targeting validated biological and disease pathways
- Leveraging in-house expertise in immunology and cytokine biology
- Using *in silico* computational modeling to design candidate peptides
- Analyzing structure-activity relationships and combining with machine learning to optimize binding

***“The new class of peptides inhibiting different combinations of cytokines tailored to different diseases exploiting the redundancy or synergy in cytokine biology”***

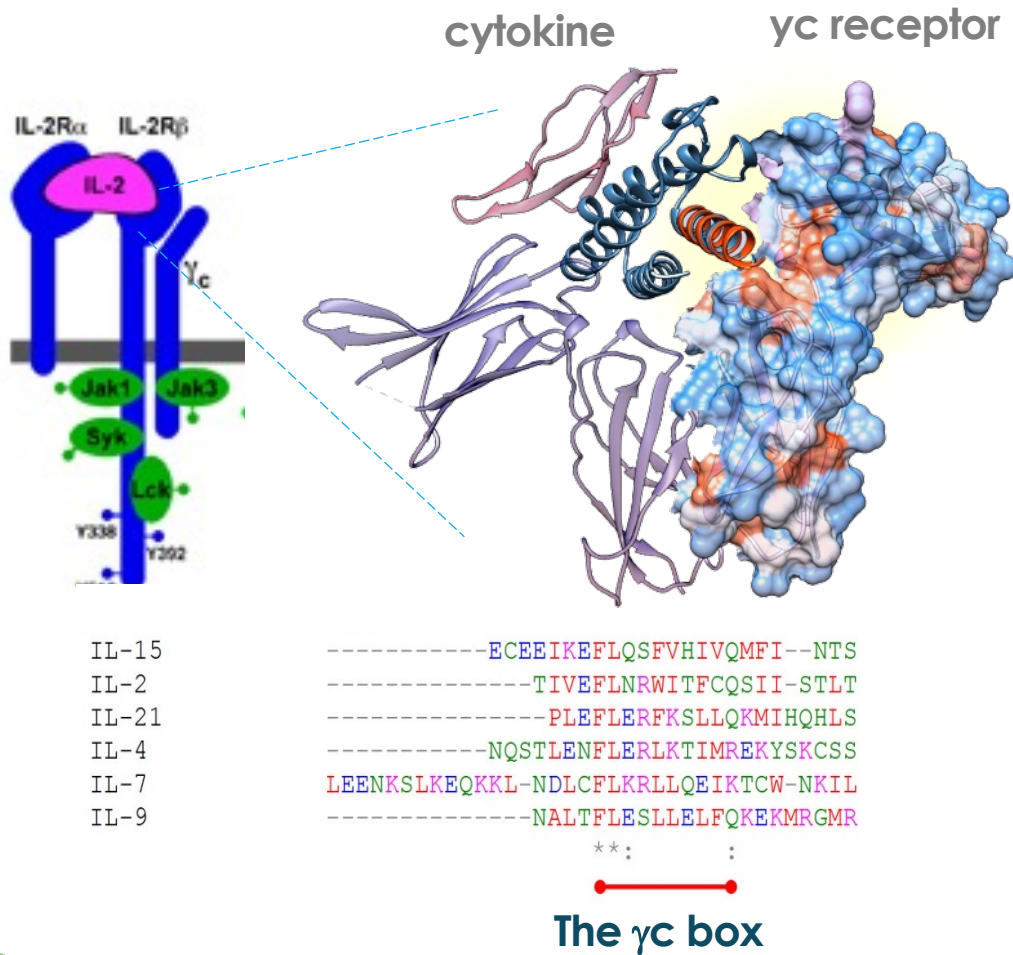
# Optimized Modality Compared to mAbs and JAK Inhibitors

Multi-cytokine inhibition at the receptor-level without the broad immuno-suppression and off target safety liabilities of JAK inhibitors



# EQ101 Validates EQ's Unique Structure-Based Discovery Platform

## Cytokine-receptor binding interface

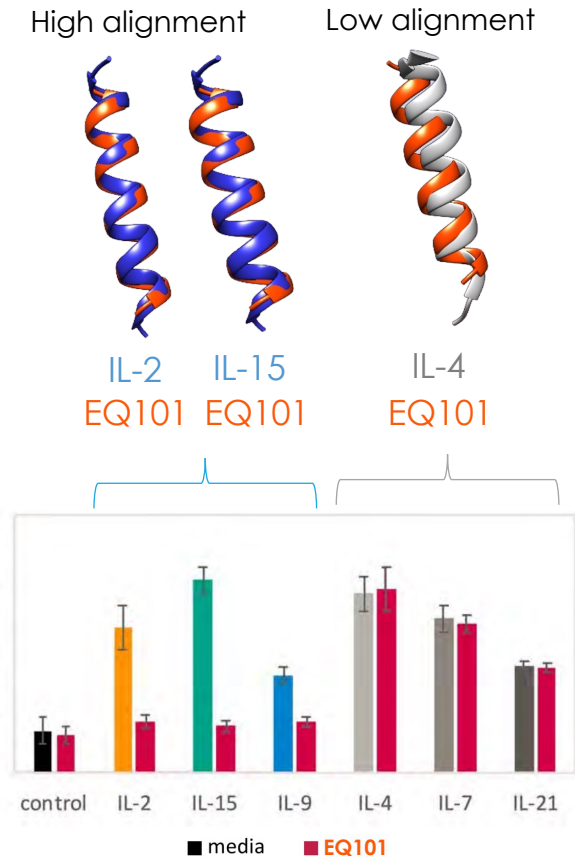


Binding optimization via proprietary methodology:

- *in silico* computational modeling
- Structure-activity relationships

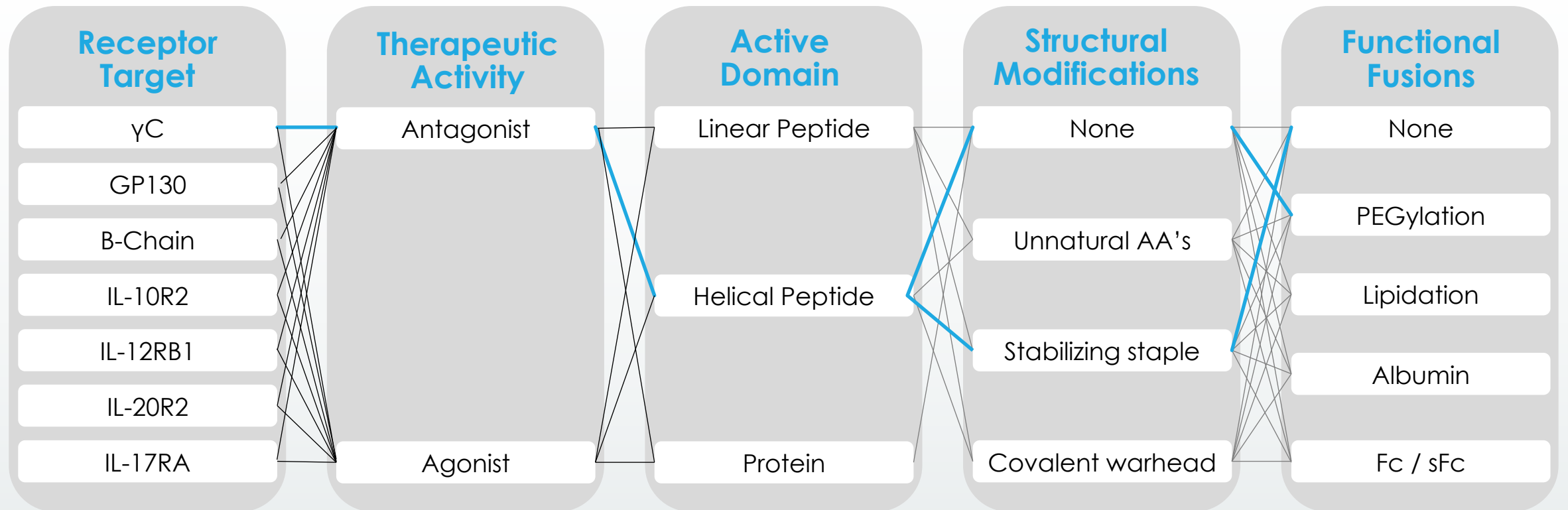
## EQ101 Structured-Domain Peptide

High alignment with IL-2 and IL-15 and low alignment with IL-4 correlates with EQ-101's ability to block IL-2 and IL-15 activity, but not IL-4 activity



# Creating Value through Novel Product Discovery Platform

Flexible, structure-based discovery technology enables development of a range of therapeutic agents (antagonists/agonists) with tunable drug-like properties



# Differentiated Lead Assets & Broad Platform Potential

## EQ101

PEGylated peptide inhibits:

**IL-2 + IL-9 + IL-15**

**Cutaneous T Cell Lymphoma**

**Alopecia areata**

**Vitiligo**

**Rheumatoid arthritis**

**Myositis**

**Interstitial lung disease**

Administered by intravenous injection  
with subcutaneous delivery  
in development



## EQ102

PEGylated peptide inhibits:

**IL-15 + IL-21**

**Celiac disease**

**Inflammatory Bowel Disease**

**SLE**

**Hepatic disease**

**Type 1 Diabetes**

Administered by  
subcutaneous injection



## Advanced Pre-clinical

Stabilized peptide Inhibits:

**IL-15 + IL-21**

**GI-inflammatory disorders**

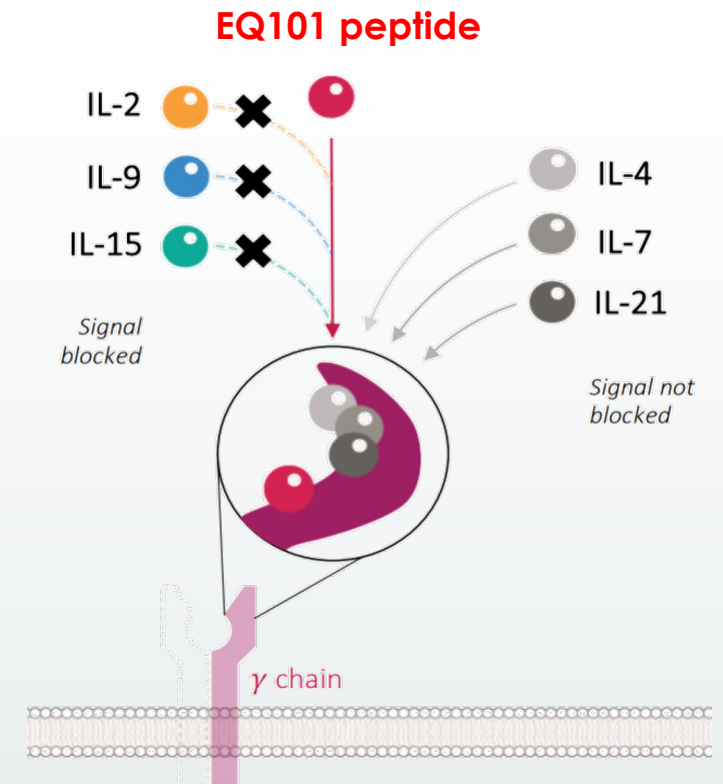
Orally-delivered, locally-acting  
peptide



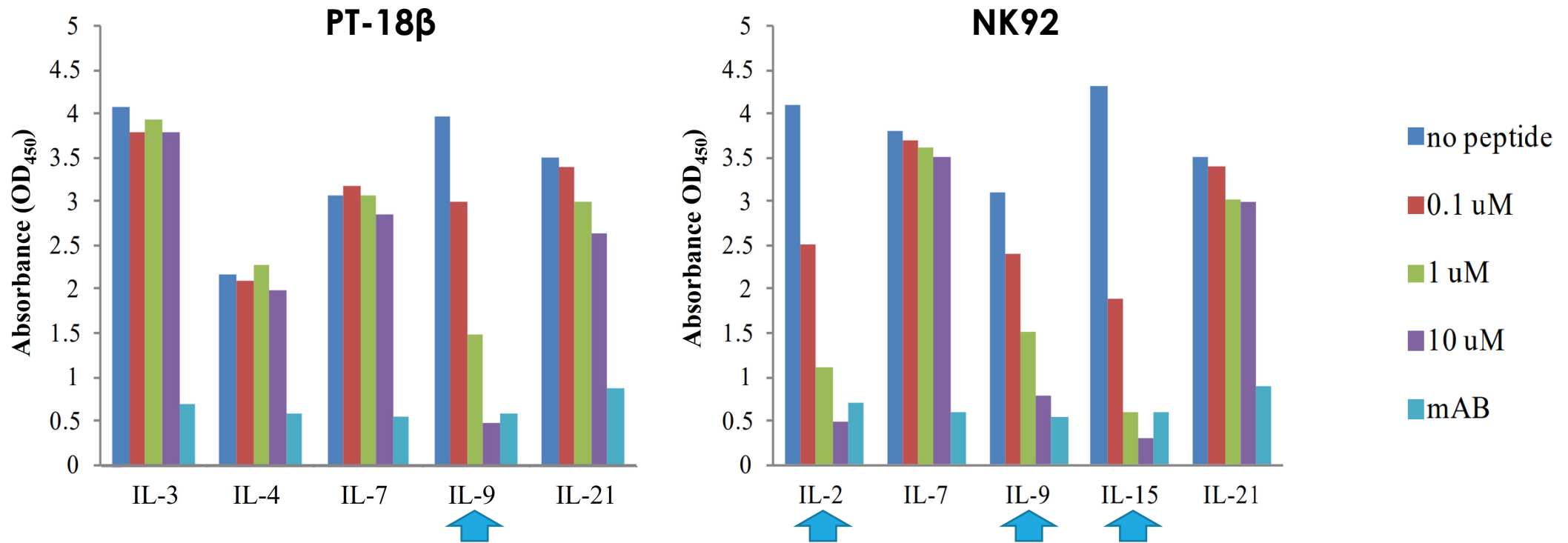
# EQ101 A First-in-class Tri-Specific Cytokine Inhibitor

Inhibition of IL-2, IL-9, and IL-15 biology by EQ101 translates from preclinical models into humans

- IL-2 and IL-15 are important to CD8 and NK cell biology, while IL-9 contributes to inflammation
- Pegylated peptide based on D-helix selectively inhibits IL-2/9/15 without suppressing other  $\gamma$  chain or non- $\gamma$  chain cytokines
- EQ101 inhibits T cell biology in multiple preclinical models
  - As good as anti-IL-2/IL-15 mAb combo in inhibiting T cell proliferation<sup>1</sup>
  - Inhibition of activity in multiple lymphoproliferative or leukemic T-cell lines<sup>2,3</sup>
  - EQ101 is more effective than ruxolitinib or anti-IL-2/anti-IL-15 combinations in mouse model of alopecia areata



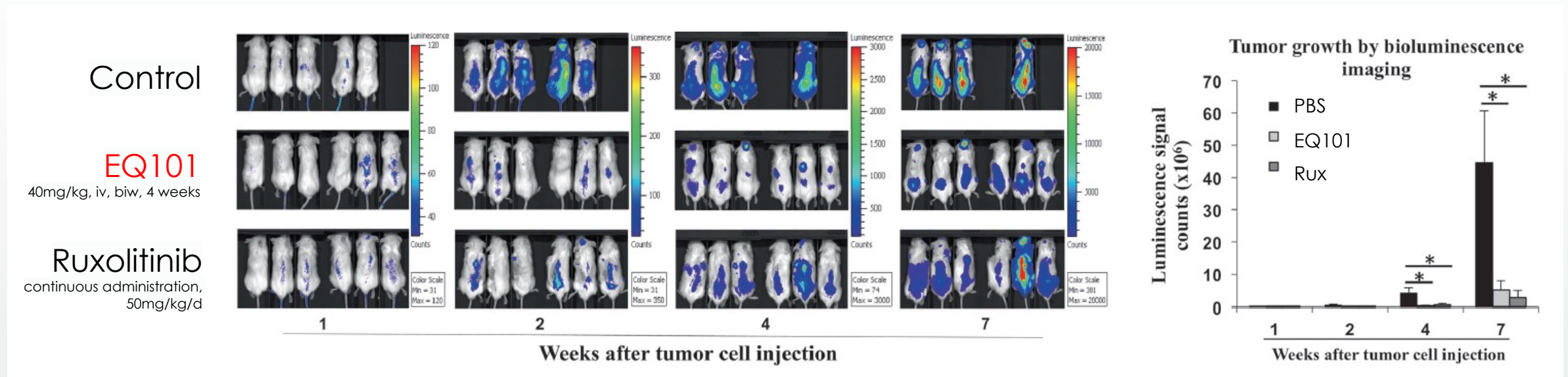
# EQ101 Selectively Inhibits yc Cytokines IL-2/IL-9/IL-15



PT-18β and NK92 cells were brought to a resting state by washing and culturing in complete RPMI media in the absence of the cytokine for 6 hrs. Cells were then plated at  $1 \times 10^5$  per well in a 96 well plate. Each assay was tested in triplicates. The cells were cultured with cytokine, antibody against cytokine (5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ ), and serial dilution of EQ101. WST-1 reagent was added to each well 24 hrs after and the plate was read 24 hrs after that at 450 nm

# EQ101 Inhibits T cell Leukemia Growth in a Xenograft Model

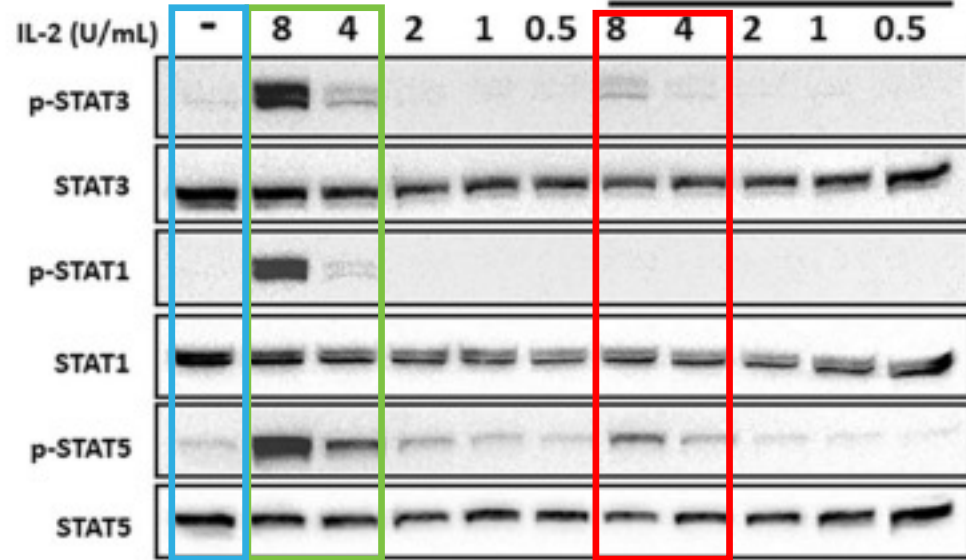
- IL-2, IL-9, and IL-15 are overexpressed in adult T cell leukemia (ATL) and cutaneous T cell lymphoma (CTCL) where they drive cancer cell proliferation and increased inflammation in the skin<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>
- Blocking IL-2 or IL-15 alone was ineffective in treating LGLL<sup>6</sup> and ATL<sup>7</sup>
- EQ101 inhibits IL-2/9/15 performing similarly to JAK inhibition in an IL-15 driven ATL model<sup>8</sup>



# EQ101 Inhibits IL-2 and IL-15 Induced STAT Activity

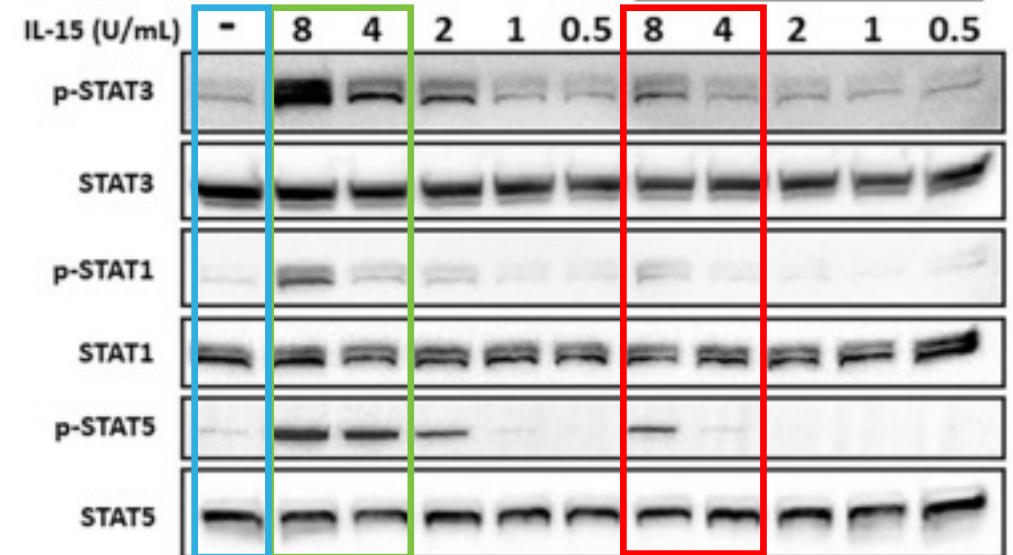
## IL-2

+ EQ101 (10 $\mu$ M)



## IL-15

+ EQ101 (10 $\mu$ M)



# First-in-human Studies of EQ101

Study ID	Phase/Study Type	Study Title	Dosing Regimens Studied
BNZ-CT-101	Phase 1a First in Human SAD	First in Human Study in Healthy Volunteers to Investigate the Safety, Tolerability, and Pharmacokinetics of Single Ascending Doses of BNZ132-1-40	Single IV doses of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0.2 mg/kg (N=3)</li> <li>• 0.4 mg/kg (N=3)</li> <li>• 0.8 mg/kg (N=3)</li> <li>• 1.6 mg/kg (N=3)</li> <li>• 3.2 mg/kg (N=3)</li> <li>• 6.4 mg/kg (N=3)</li> </ul>
BNZ1-CT-102	Phase 1b MAD	A Multiple-Dose Study of Intravenous BNZ132-1-40 in Healthy Adult Subjects	Three (for QOW doses) or four (for QW doses) IV doses of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0.5 mg/kg QW (N on Treatment=5, 1 Placebo)</li> <li>• 1.0 mg/kg QW (N on Treatment=5, 1 Placebo)</li> <li>• 2.0 mg/kg QOW (N on Treatment=5, 1 Placebo)</li> <li>• 1.5 mg/kg QW (N on Treatment=5, 2 Placebo)</li> <li>• 3.0 mg/kg QOW (N on Treatment=5, 2 Placebo)</li> </ul>

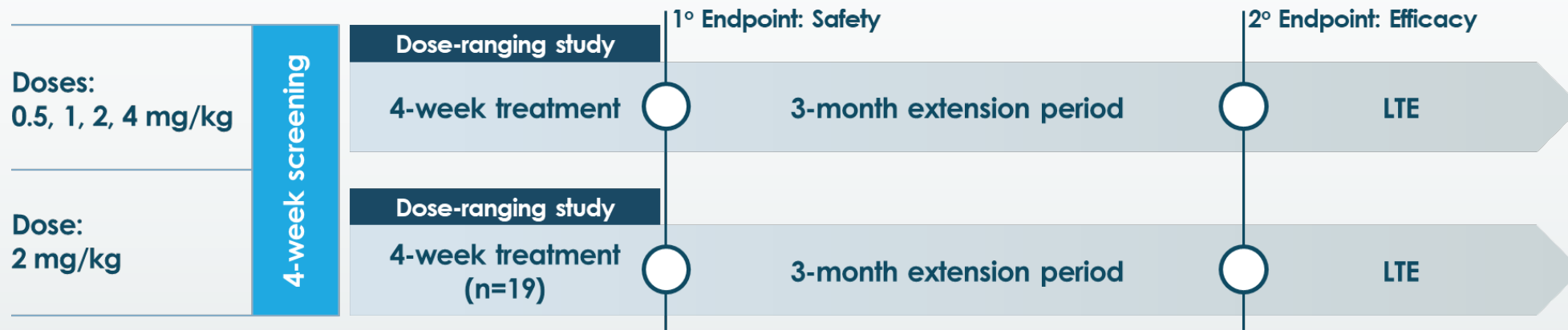
- No dose-limiting toxicities, infusion reactions, or serious or severe treatment-emergent adverse events
- Peak and total BNZ-1 exposure was generally dose proportional, with a terminal elimination half-life of approximately a week
- Dose-dependent decreases in key target cells (NK and CD8 etc) with observed for beyond two weeks with higher doses

# Phase 1/2 Proof of Concept Study of EQ101 in CTCL Patients

Clinically validated with favorable safety profile, Phase 2/3 ready to address multiple indications with significant unmet medical need

## Phase 1/2 MAD study in CTCL

- Heavily pre-treated population (median of 5 prior systemic treatments)
- Dose-dependent PK/PD relationship in key cellular markers
- Safe and well-tolerated with no drug related SAEs, no DLTs and no clinically significant laboratory abnormalities
- Dose-dependent reductions of IL-2 & IL-15 dependent cells and improvements in mSWAT

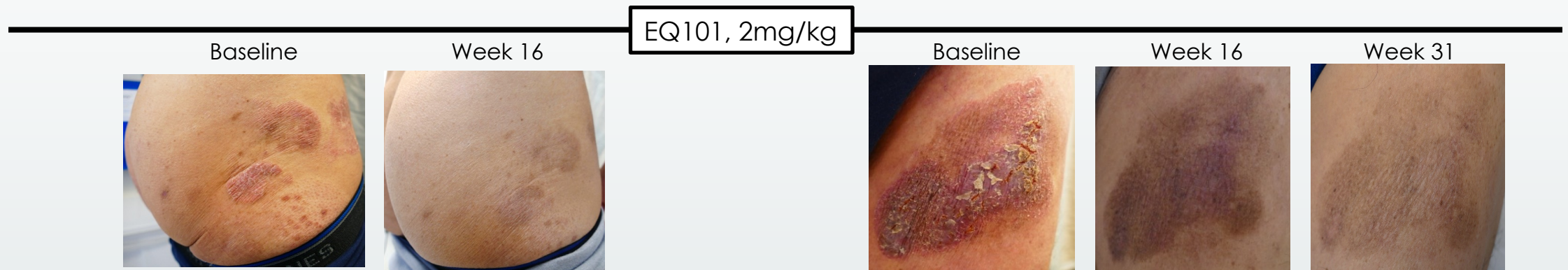


# EQ101 Clinically Validated in Severe Dermatological Disease

EQ101 reduces IL-2 & IL-15 dependent cells and inflammation with improvements in skin lesions and ORR comparing favorably with benchmark drugs

MAVORIC trial evaluating mogamulizumab and vorinostat provides the most recent and reliable estimates for benchmarking EQ101<sup>1</sup>

CTCL disease stage IB/II			
	Mogamulizumab (n=68)	Vorinostat (n=72)	EQ101 (n=19)
<b>Response Rate</b> (mSWAT, CR + PR)	27.9%	19.4%	<b>42.1%<sup>2</sup></b>



# EQ101: Cutaneous T Cell Lymphoma

Inhibition of IL-2/9/15 translates from in vitro/ex vivo models into patients with clinical efficacy and favorable safety and tolerability profile

## **Strong biologic rationale**

- IL-2, IL-9, and IL-15 are overexpressed in adult T cell leukemia (ATL) and cutaneous T cell lymphoma (CTCL) where they drive cancer cell proliferation and increased inflammation in the skin
- Inhibition of activity in multiple lymphoproliferative or leukemic T-cell lines

## **Planned Phase 2/3 Ready**

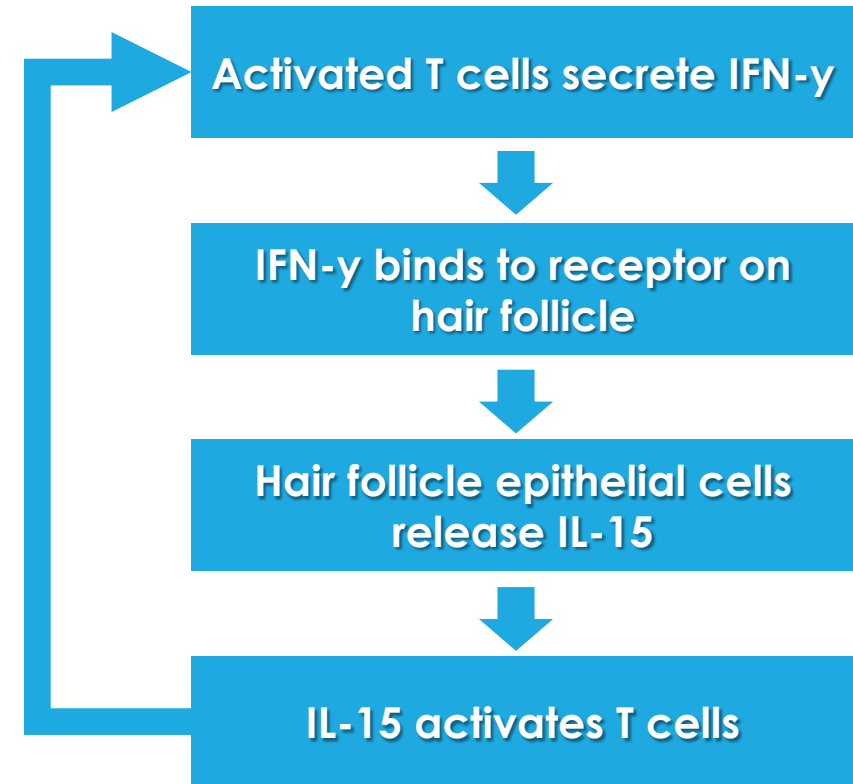
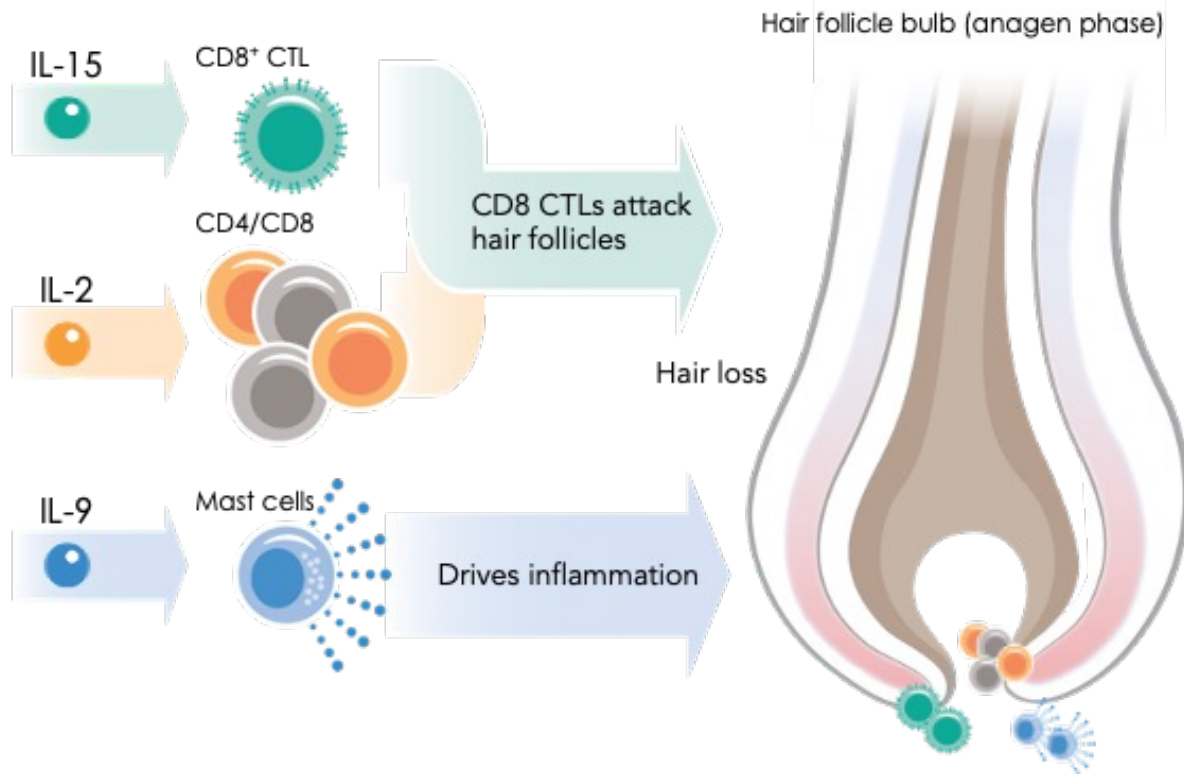
- Demonstrated inhibition of IL-2/IL-15 dependent inflammation with improvements in skin lesions
- IND open for Phase 3 study

## **Rare disease with high unmet medical need**

- 30,000 addressable patients in U.S. alone
- Need for a safe and effective treatment for skin-stage disease (mycosis fungoides)

# Alopecia Areata - Pathophysiology

The targets for EQ101 inhibition (IL-2, IL-9 and IL-15) are key drivers of disease leading to a cycle of increased IFN- $\gamma$  production and loss of hair follicle in alopecia areata patients



# EQ101 Outperforms Ruxolitinib in Reversing Immune-Mediated Hair Loss in a Humanized Mouse Model

EQ101 is more effective than ruxolitinib (ruxo) at hair regrowth and suppression of cytotoxic CD8+ T-cells in humanized alopecia model

## EQ101 Improves Hair Regrowth

2 mg/kg IV 2x/week x 2 weeks

NSG Mice transplanted w/ human PBMCs<sup>1</sup>

EQ101

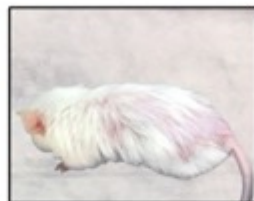


Day -30

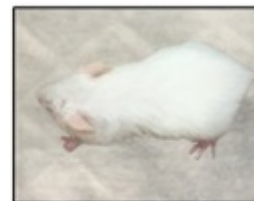
Ruxo



Day 0



Day 14



Day 21



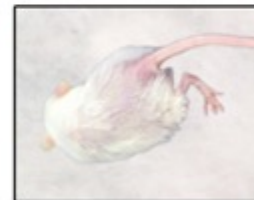
Day 0



Day 14



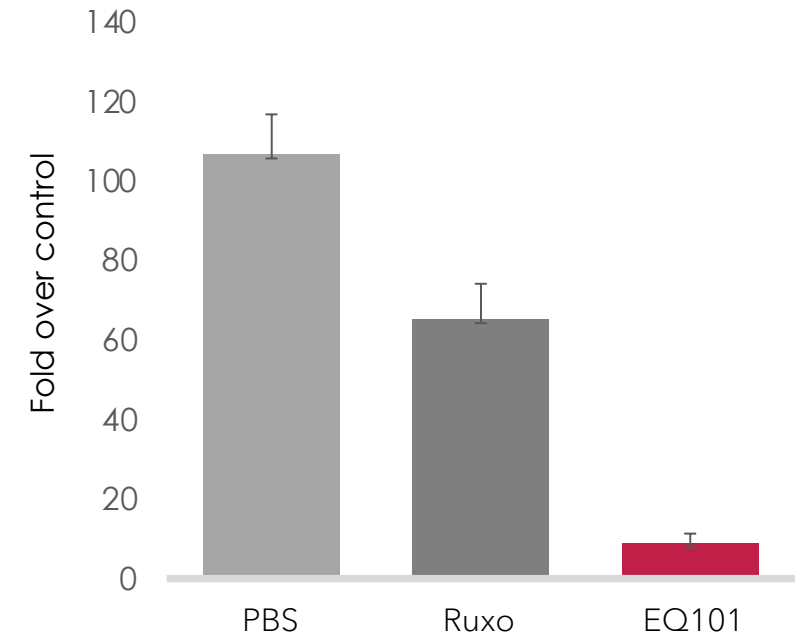
Day 21



Day 28

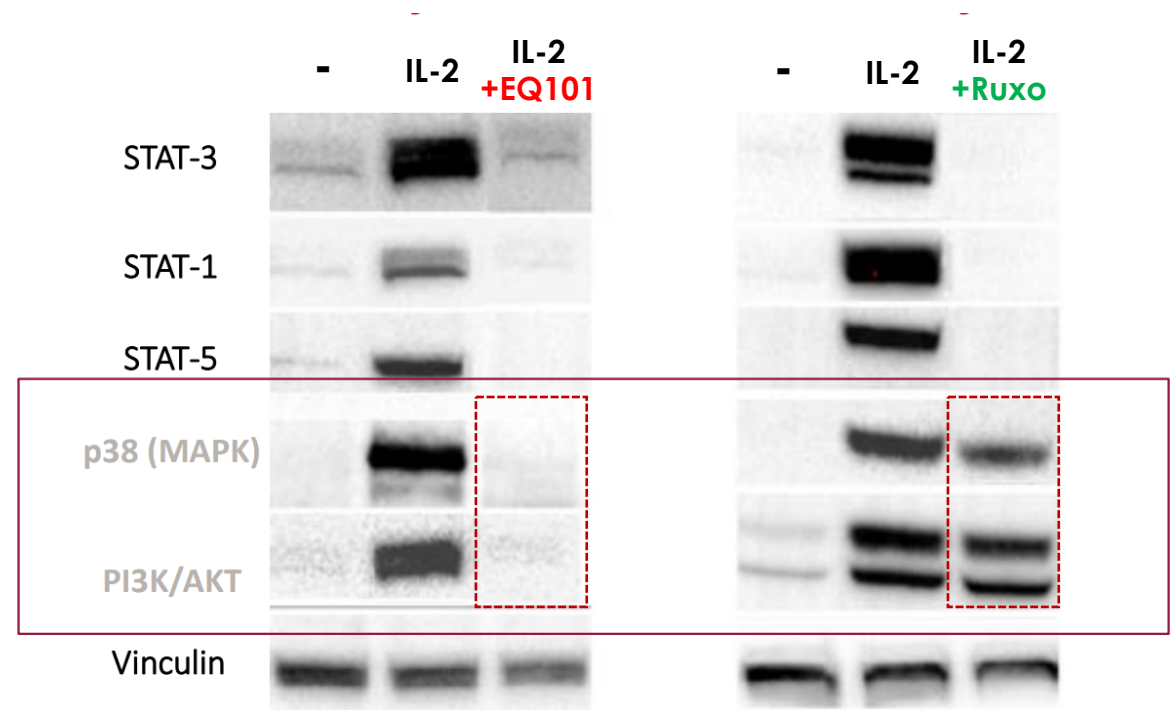
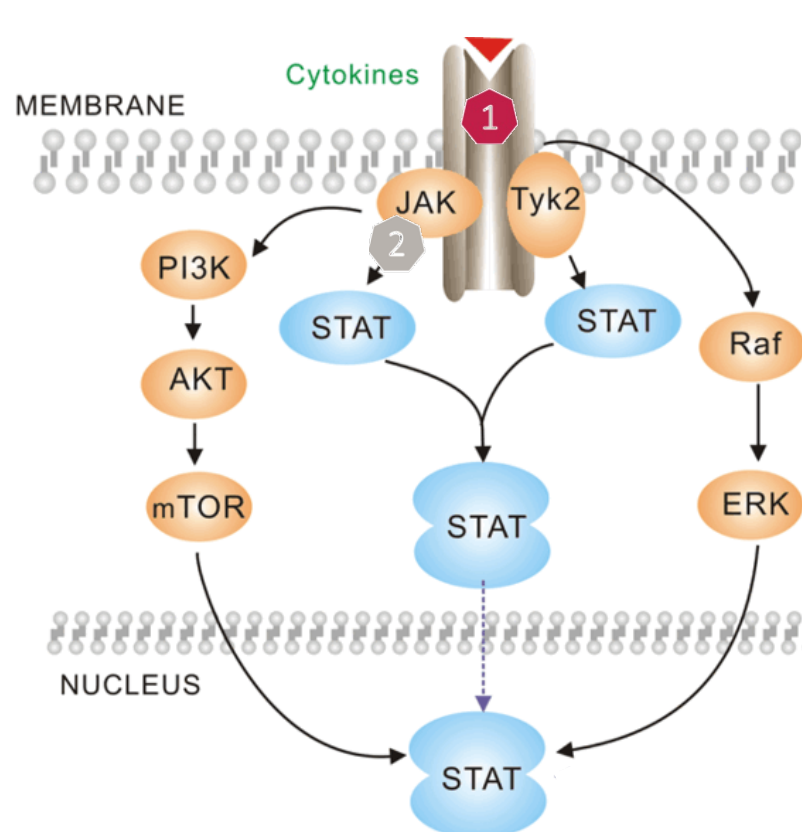
30 mg/kg 2x/day x 4 weeks

## EQ101 Reduces CD8+ Cytotoxic T-cell Activation Marker



# EQ101 Provides Complete Cytokine-mediated Signal Inhibition

JAKi effect on cytokine signaling is broad yet incomplete, whereas EQ101 can inhibit multiple downstream pathways for a more potent suppression of cytokine signaling



# EQ101: Alopecia Areata

Prioritizing Phase 2 in alopecia areata with potential to target multiple follow-on indications with significant unmet medical need

## **Strong biologic rationale**

- Potent and selective inhibition of IL-2, IL-9 and IL-15 – cytokines important to disease pathogenesis
- Strong response in inhibiting immune-mediated hair loss in a humanized mouse model

## **Planned Phase 2 in Alopecia areata**

- IND open for Phase 2 study
- Plans to initiate POC trial in 2H of 2022

## **Attractive commercial opportunity**

- 300,000 moderate to severe patients in U.S. – only one approval (Olumiant)
- JAK inhibitors validate target biology, but may be limited by class safety concerns
- Enthusiasm for novel, non-JAK inhibitor approach

# Acknowledgments & Q&A

- Bioniz Research Team (past & present)
- NIH Research Teams
- Dr. Nazli Azimi (co-founder)
- Professor Yutaka Tagaya (co-founder)
- Equillium Research Team
- Patients of the clinical trials
- KOLs and advisors
- Our investors

