## FTX-6058, A Novel HbF Inducer: Phase 1 Healthy Volunteer Trial Update

December 6th, 2021











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### Introduction

Bryan Stuart

- Overview of Fetal Hemoglobin Repression Gerd Blobel, MD, PhD
- FTX-6058 Preclinical Pharmacology and Mechanistic Insights Judith Dunn, PhD
- FTX-6058 Phase 1 Healthy Volunteer Update
  Christopher Morabito, MD
- Q&A Session

# Introduction

### **Bryan Stuart** President and Chief Executive Officer

# **Fulcrum** Therapeutics









# **Overview of Fetal Hemoglobin Repression**

### Gerd Blobel, MD, PhD

Frank E. Weise III Endowed Chair in Pediatric Hematology at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia











## **Pursuing HbF Elevation as a Therapeutic Strategy**



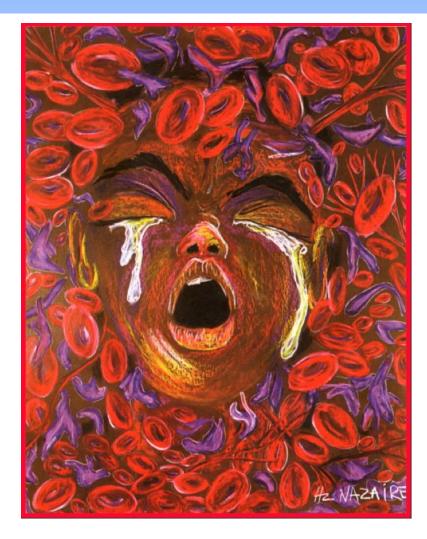
Gerd Blobel, M.D., Ph.D. Frank E. Weise III Professor of Pediatrics The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Co-director U-Penn Epigenetics Institute Perelman School of Medicine University of Pennsylvania



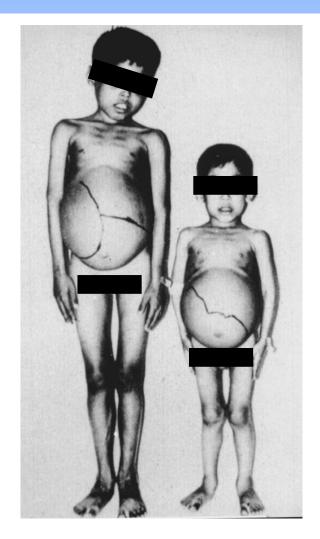




## Hemoglobinopathies: Diseases of multi-system complications



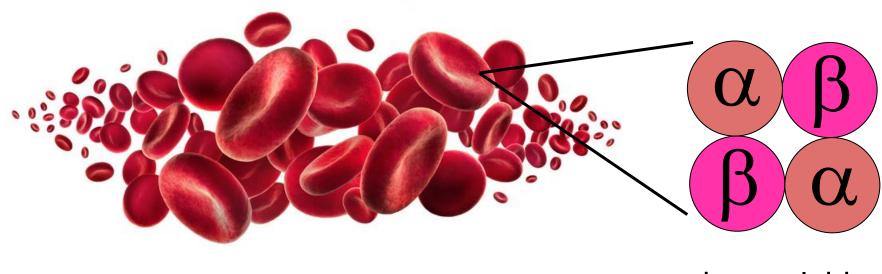
Sickle cell disease



Thalassemia intermedia



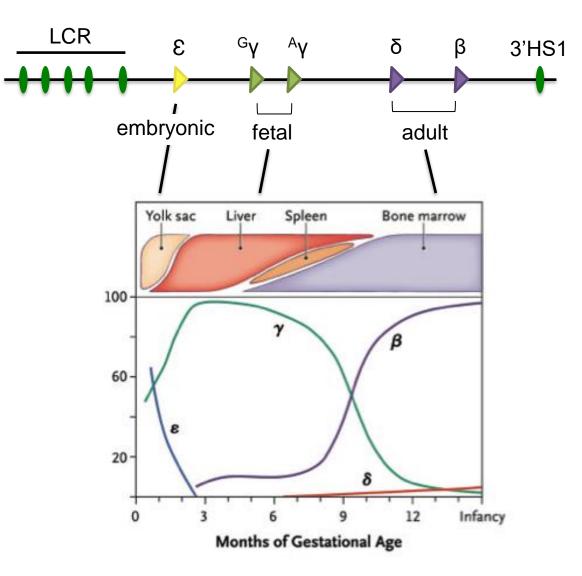
## Red blood cells contain hemoglobin



erythrocytes

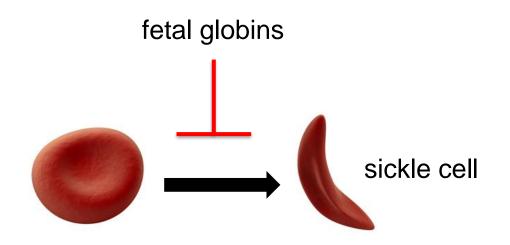
hemoglobin

## Human hemoglobin switching





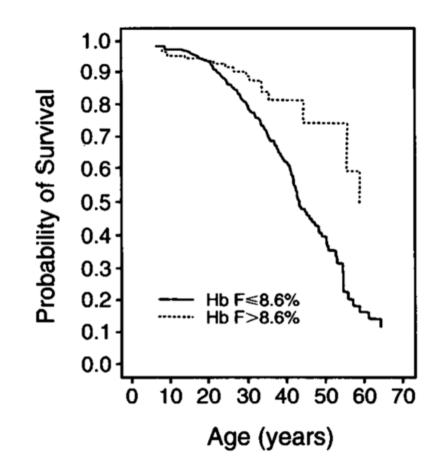
Elevated levels of fetal hemoglobin (HbF) improve the clinical course of patients with sickle cell disease



### <u>h</u>ereditary <u>p</u>ersistence of <u>f</u>etal <u>h</u>emoglobin (HPFH)



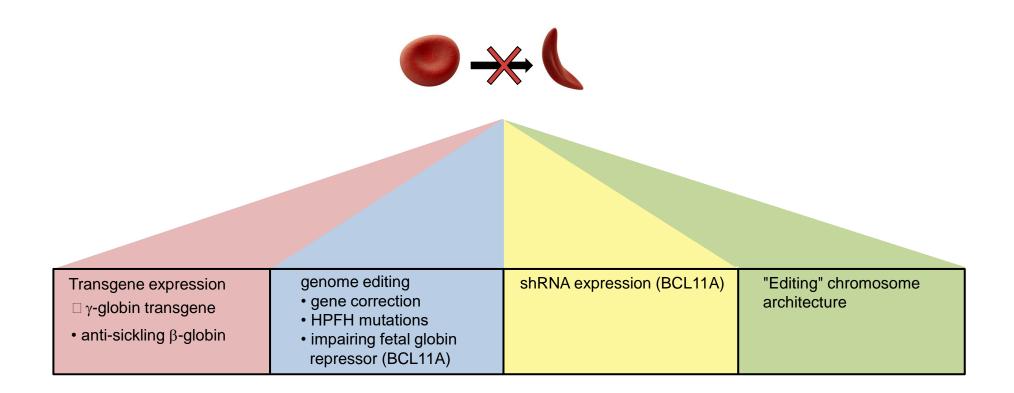
Elevated levels of fetal hemoglobin (HbF) improve the clinical course of patients with sickle cell disease





Platt, O. S. et al. N. Engl. J. Med. 1994

Therapeutic approaches for sickle cell disease (a brief scenic tour)



## All of these approaches require autologous BM transplants



Goal: Identify HbF regulators that could be targeted with small molecules





## What controls the fetal-to-adult switch?

Insights from GWAS

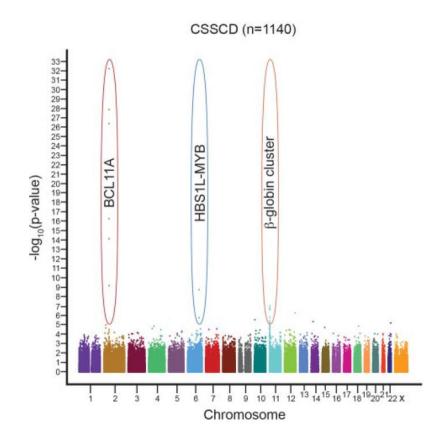
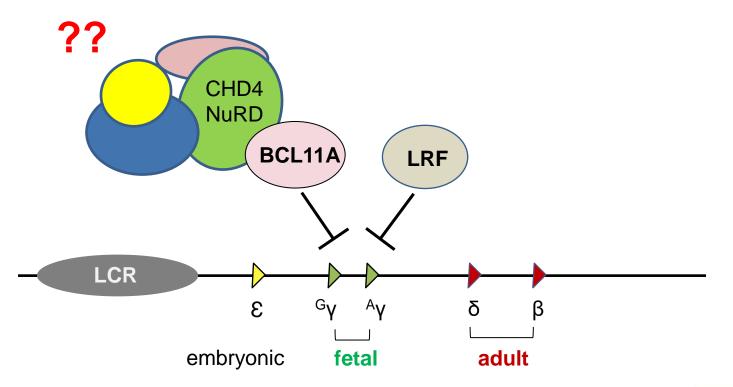


Figure courtesy of Guillaume Lettre



## What controls the fetal-to-adult switch?

(More regulators? Novel therapeutic opportunities?)

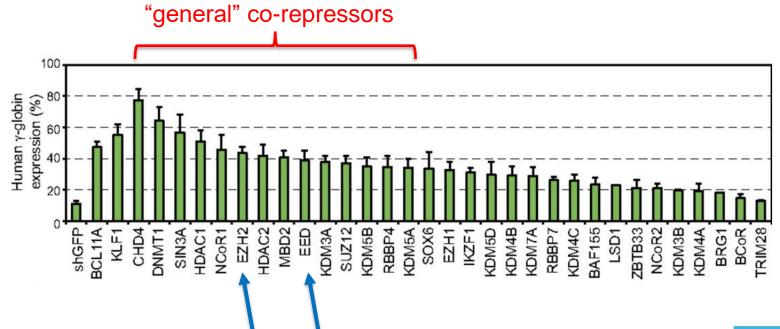




Hemoglobin switching involves widely expressed co-regulators

#### **Corepressor-dependent silencing of fetal hemoglobin expression by BCL11A**

Jian Xu<sup>a</sup>, Daniel E. Bauer<sup>a</sup>, Marc A. Kerenyi<sup>a</sup>, Thuy D. Vo<sup>a</sup>, Serena Hou<sup>a</sup>, Yu-Jung Hsu<sup>a</sup>, Huilan Yao<sup>b</sup>, Jennifer J. Trowbridge<sup>a</sup>, Gail Mandel<sup>b</sup>, and Stuart H. Orkin<sup>a,c,1</sup>



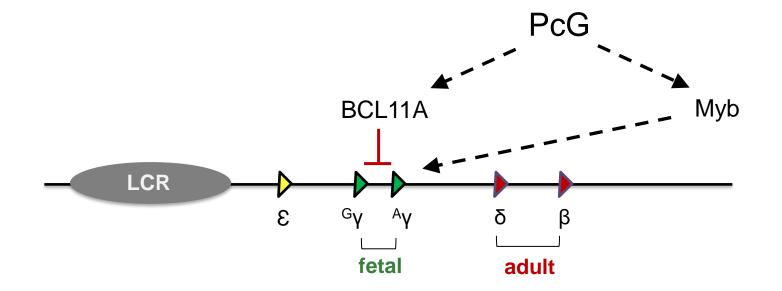


Hemoglobin switching involves widely expressed co-regulators

Our screens also identified several PRC2 components as fetal hemoglobin regulators, providing independent validation of PcG as targets.



### Polycomb influences BCL11A and Myb levels





## FTX-6058 Preclinical Pharmacology and Mechanistic Insights

Judith Dunn, PhD President, Research & Development











# Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) is Caused by a Mutation in the $\beta$ -globin Gene Resulting in Sickled Red Blood Cells, VOCs, and Anemia

### THE DISEASE

Genetic disorder of red blood cells (RBC) caused by mutation in Hemoglobin-Beta (HBB) gene



### **PATIENT EXPERIENCE**

- Vaso-occlusive crises (VOCs)
- Anemia
- Other complications, including stroke and organ damage

morbidity and mortality

### **TREATMENT OPTIONS**

Short of SCT, current therapies are unable to address broad SCD symptomatology

- Hydroxyurea (current SOC) offers limited benefit and is only effective in a subset of individuals with SCD
- Newly approved therapies address only a subset of SCD symptomatology (i.e., anemia or VOCs)

only addressing subsets

### **GLOBAL IMPACT**

Sickle cell disease is prevalent globally



# **Existing Therapeutic Agents Do Not Effectively Address the Unmet Need in SCD, and Underscores the Need for Novel Therapies**



Current Standard of Care



Potential to ameliorate broader SCD disease pathology



Significant non-responder population and waning efficacy over time

Potential safety risks (i.e., myelosuppression) and tolerability issues

### **HbS Polymerization Inhibitors**

Increasing Total Hemoglobin

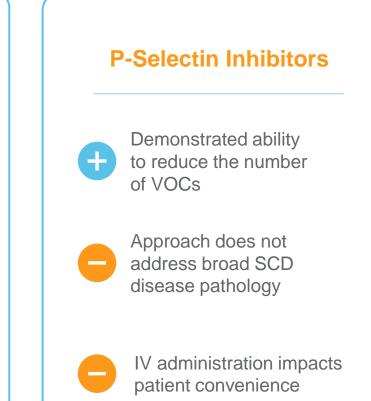


Addresses anemia (i.e., low total hemoglobin) by increasing levels of sickled hemoglobin (HbS)

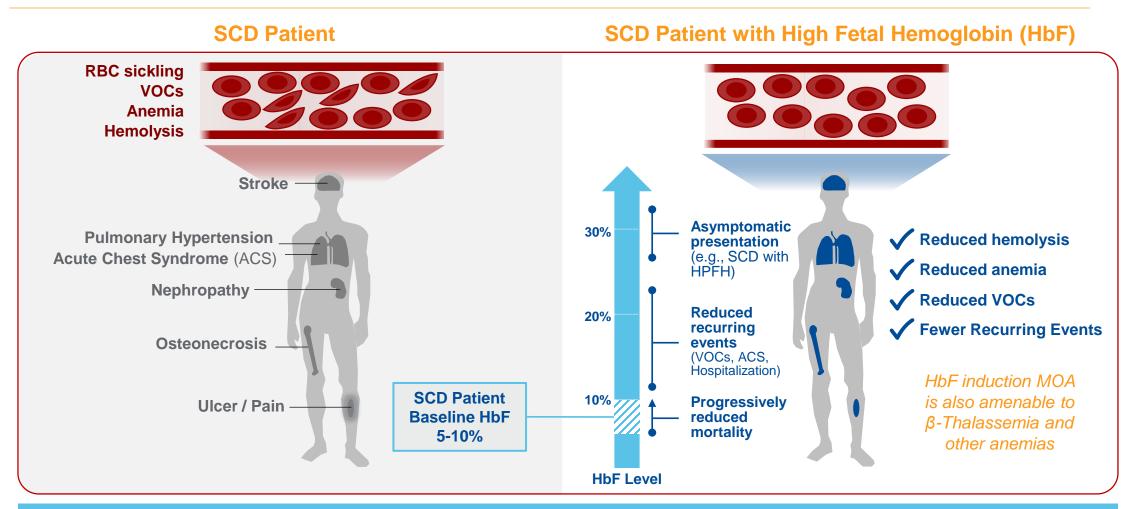


Increasing HbS has not translated to clinical outcomes, such as VOCs

Approach does not address broad SCD disease pathology

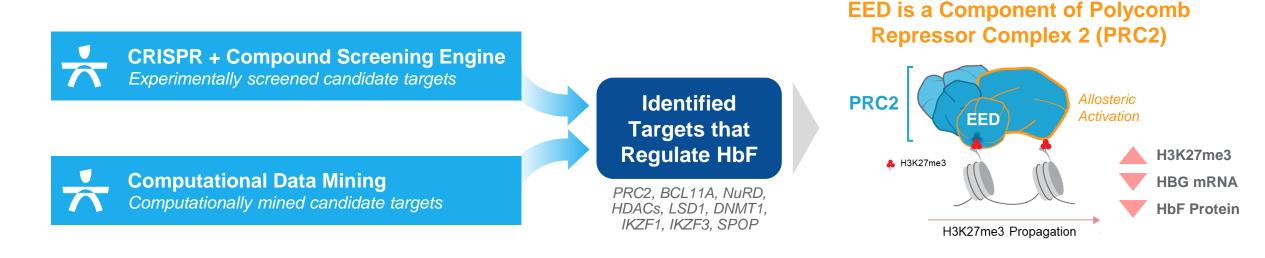


## Increasing Fetal Hemoglobin (HbF) is the Only Mechanism Shown to Broadly Improve Outcomes in SCD

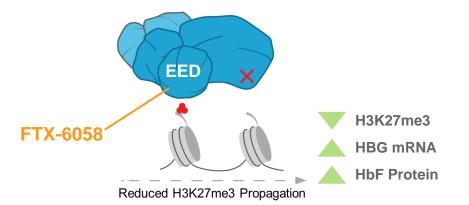


SCD individuals can have additional mutations that cause a condition known as hereditary persistence of fetal hemoglobin (HPFH), which leads to reduced or no symptoms in patients with SCD and β-thalassemia

## **FulcrumSeek Identified Embryonic Ectoderm Development (EED) as a Target for HbF Induction**



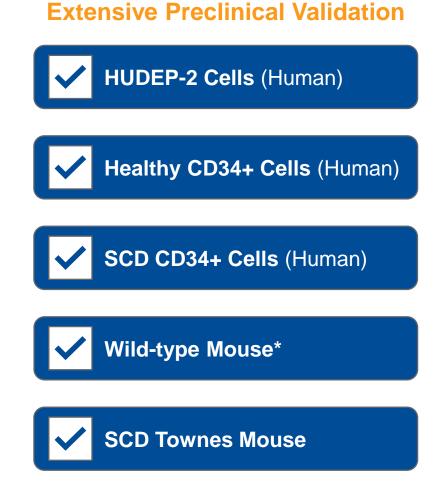
### Internal Medicinal Chemistry Led to FTX-6058, a Potent and Selective EED Inhibitor



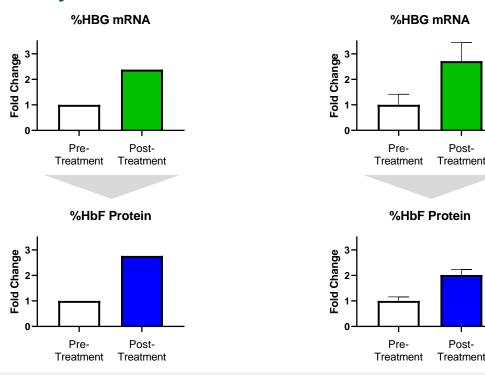


- Highly Selective
- Clean Off-target Profile
- Composition of Matter Patent Expires 2040

## FTX-6058 Induced HbF 2 – 3 Fold Across Multiple Preclinical **Models with Strong Correlation between mRNA and Protein**



### Healthy CD34+ Cells



**SCD Townes Mouse** 

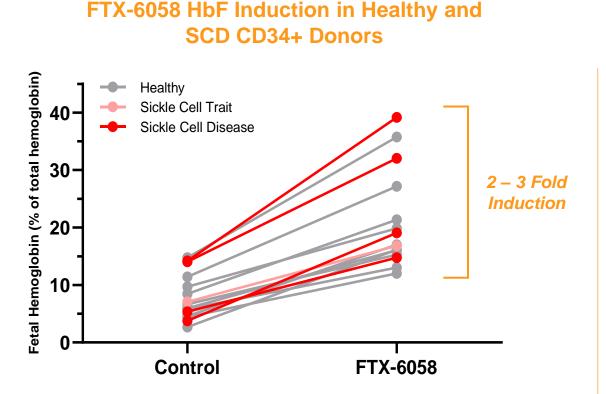
Post-

Post-

Treatment

Consistent 2 – 3 fold induction and strong correlation between fetal hemoglobin mRNA and protein observed both in vitro and in vivo

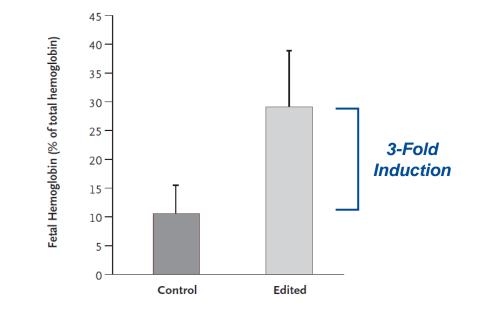
## In Preclinical Studies, FTX-6058 Demonstrated HbF Induction Comparable to BCL11A Gene Editing



#### FTX-6058 achieved an absolute 8 – 25% increase in HbF, which has the potential to broadly address SCD symptomatology

 Demonstrated ability to achieve potentially "curative" HbF levels (e.g., 25 – 35% HbF) associated with asymptomatic disease

### HbF Induction with BCL11A Gene Editing (CTX001) in Healthy CD34+ Donors<sup>1</sup>



- CTX001, a gene editing therapy targeting BCL11A, achieved ~3-fold HbF induction in healthy donor CD34+ cells
- Robust preclinical HbF induction has translated to the clinic, achieving "curative" HbF levels and asymptomatic disease

# HbF Fold Induction from CD34+ Cell Assay is Highly Translatable to the Clinic, with Initial HbF Induction Observed After ~1 Month of Treatment

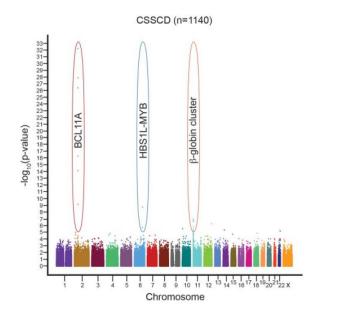
Mechanism / Asset	BCL11A KO	DNMT1i	HU	PDE9i	<b>FTX-6058</b>
<b>Preclinical HbF</b> Fold Induction <sup>1</sup>	3-fold	1.5 – 2 fold	1.1 – 1.2 fold	No Change	2 – 3 fold
SCD Clinical HbF Fold Induction <sup>2</sup>	~10-fold <sup>3</sup>	2 – 2.5 fold <sup>4</sup>	~1.7-fold <sup>5</sup>	<1.1 fold <sup>6</sup>	<b>TBD</b> (Phase 1b)
Time to Maximal HbF Induction	~5 months	>2 months <sup>7</sup>	Up to 6 months	4 – 6 months	<b>~3 months</b> (projection)

### Therapeutic goal is to induce HbF 2 – 3 fold over baseline levels

<sup>1</sup> Fulcrum generated data in erythroid cells derived from healthy CD34+ cells; <sup>2</sup> Calculated as fold change over baseline %HbF (as a % of total hemoglobin) <sup>3</sup> CRISPR FULCRUM THERAPEUTICS Therapeutics EHA 2021 virtual congress (SCD); <sup>4</sup> Molokie, R. PLoS Med. 2017; utilizing cohort 5 data (0.16 mg/kg data); <sup>5</sup> Data from the Multicenter Study of Hydroxyurea **26** (MSH); Steinberg, MH. Blood.1997; <sup>6</sup> Data from IMR-687 monotherapy in parent study provided in Imara 2021 EHA investor event; <sup>7</sup> based on 8-week treatment period

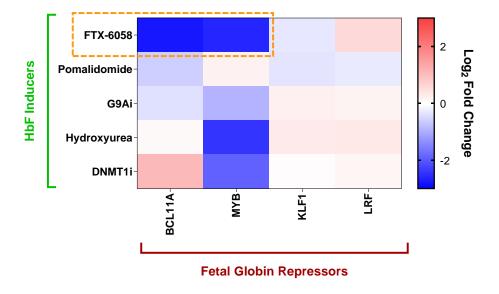
## FTX-6058 Demonstrates Potent Downregulation of Key Fetal Globin Repressors, including BCL11A and MYB

#### Genome-wide Association Studies in SCD Have Identified Key Fetal Hemoglobin Repressors



- HPFH results from polymorphisms in BCL11A, the intergenic region of HSB1L-MYB, and the β-globin cluster
  - Downregulation of BCL11A and MYB have been demonstrated to induce fetal hemoglobin
  - Increased HbF levels also result from mutations in the β-globin gene

#### FTX-6058 Potently Downregulates BCL11A and MYB in Erythroid Cultures Derived from CD34+ Cells

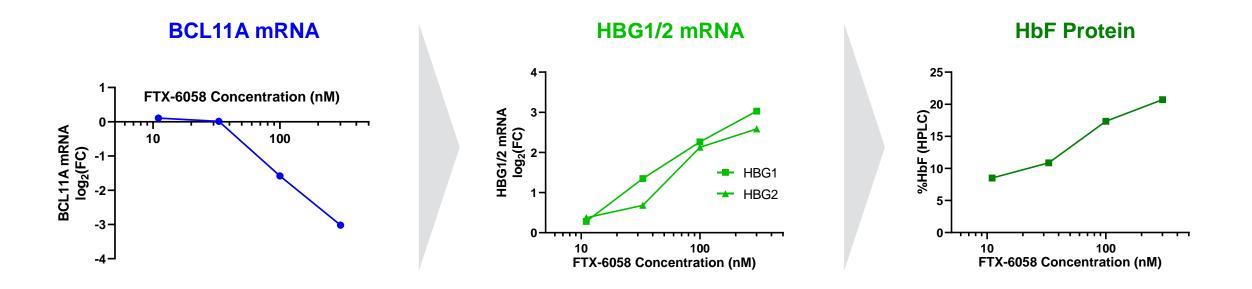


- FTX-6058 potently downregulates master fetal globin repressors BCL11A and MYB
- Robust reduction of BCL11A mRNA only observed with FTX-6058
- No effect on other validated HbF repressors, such as KLF1 or LRF

Bauer, DE. Blood. 2012; HPFH: Hereditary Persistence of Fetal Hemoglobin; CSSCD: Cooperative Study of Sickle Cell Disease; Representative RNASeq 27 mRNA expression from one healthy CD34+ donor.

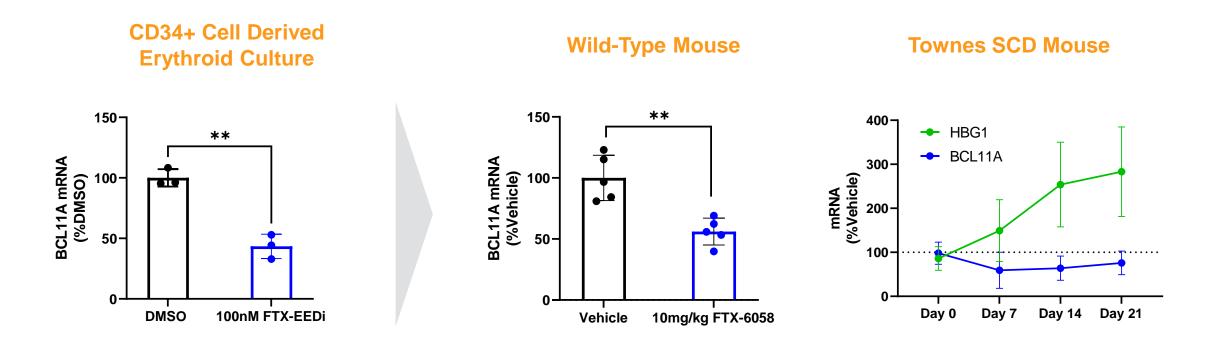
### FTX-6058 Demonstrates Robust Relationship Between BCL11A Downregulation and Fetal Hemoglobin Induction in Erythroid Cells

EEDi Modulation of BCL11A and HBG1/2 mRNA Translates to Robust HbF Protein Induction



- FTX-6058 treatment results in dose-dependent BCL11A downregulation, and subsequent HBG1/2 upregulation and HbF induction
- Observe 2 3 fold HbF protein induction when BCL11A expression is reduced >50%
- Continue to establish relationship between MYB downregulation and HBG mRNA / HbF protein induction

## In Vitro BCL11A Downregulation Observed with EED Inhibition Translates In Vivo



- Observe consistent ~50% reduction in BCL11A across in vitro and in vivo studies
- In WT and Townes mouse, achieve ~50% reduction in BCL11A by day 5 7 of FTX-6058 treatment
- Durable BCL11A reduction achieved in Townes mouse model translates to robust 2 3 fold HBG1 induction

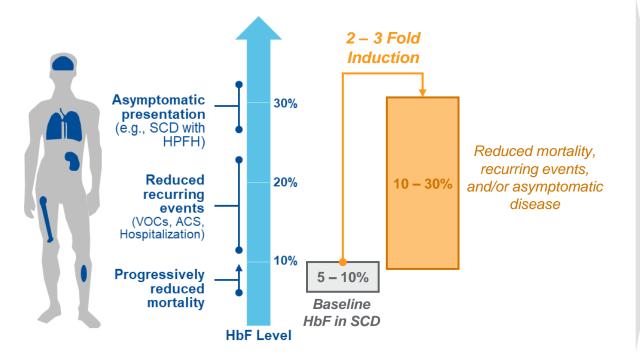
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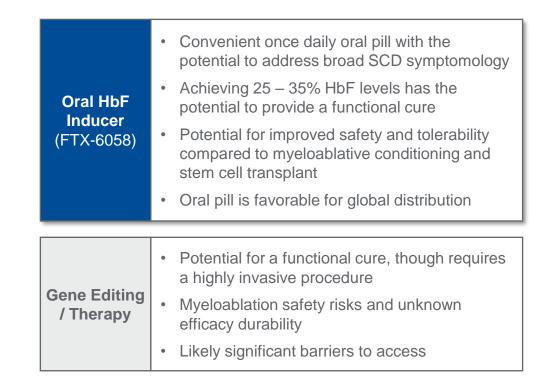
FTX-EEDi is structurally and pharmacologically similar EED inhibitor to FTX-6058. Representative mRNA expression from one healthy CD34+ donor. 29 WT mouse whole blood mRNA, 5-days of 10mg/kg. Townes whole blood mRNA at 5mg/kg FTX-EEDi

## **Oral HbF Inducer has the Potential to be the Preferred SCD Treatment Option for Patients and Providers**

#### HbF Induction has the Potential to Provide Broad Clinical Benefits in SCD

### FTX-6058 has Significant Advantages Over Gene Editing / Therapy Approaches





## FTX-6058 Phase 1 Healthy Volunteer Update

**Christopher Morabito, MD** 

**Chief Medical Officer** 

\*\*\*Results are from ongoing, blinded Phase 1 clinical trial\*\*\*



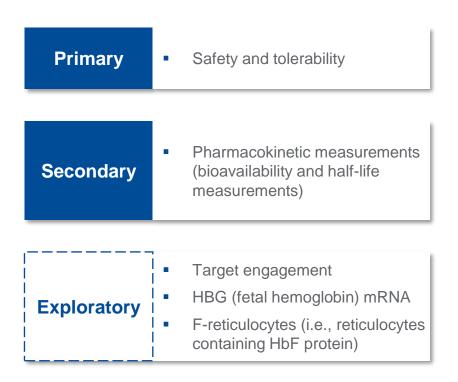






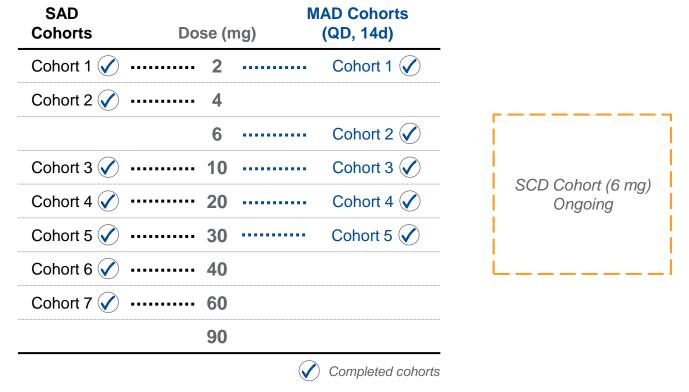
## **FTX-6058** Phase 1 Healthy Volunteer Trial Design

#### **Phase 1 Design and Endpoints**



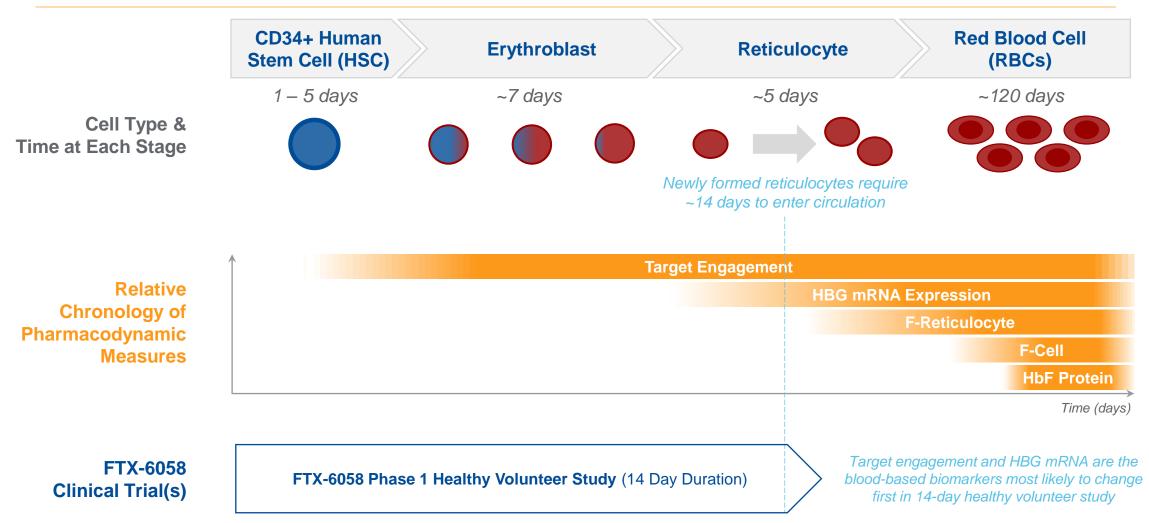
Opportunistically assessing HBG mRNA and F-reticulocytes in whole blood after FTX-6058 treatment

#### **Overview of Phase 1 SAD / MAD Cohorts**



- Each MAD cohort has 8 subjects (6 on study drug and 2 on placebo)
- Predicted human dose from PK/PD modeling is 4mg, and supports QD dosing
- The 6, 10, and 20mg doses were projected to achieve maximal target engagement and HbF induction

## **Erythropoiesis in Healthy Volunteers Influenced Biomarker Selection of 14-day Ph 1 Study**



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F-reticulocyte: HbF-containing reticulocyte; F-cell: HbF-containing RBC; Palis, J. Front Physiol. 2014; Mescher, AL. Junqueira's Basic Histology: 33 Text and Atlas, 12<sup>th</sup> Edition, http://www.accessmedicine.com

# FTX-6058 has been Generally Well-Tolerated

### **Summary of Related TEAEs**

SAD								
	Placebo	FTX-6058						Blinded
Adverse Event	N = 14	<b>2mg</b> N = 3	<b>4mg</b> N = 3	<b>10mg</b> N = 5	<b>20mg</b> N = 5	<b>30mg</b> N = 5	<b>40mg</b> N = 5	<b>60mg</b> N=5
Eosinophilia Count Increased	1 (7%)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leukopenia	0	0	0	0	1 (20%)	0	0	0
Headache	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 (20%) <sup>a</sup>

Food Effect					
	FTX-6058				
Adverse Event	<b>20mg</b> <sup>c</sup> N = 10				
Nausea	1				
<sup>c</sup> Cross-over study design					

<sup>a</sup> Blinded data from SAD 60mg cohort

MAD							
	Placebo	FTX-6058					
Adverse Event	N =10	<b>2mg</b> N = 6	<b>6mg</b> N = 6	<b>10mg</b> N = 6	<b>20 mg</b> N=6	<b>30 mg</b> N=6	
Diarrhoea (Loose Stool) <sup>b</sup>	1 (10%)	0	0	0	0	0	
Dry Mouth	0	1 (17%)	0	0	0	0	
Abnormal Stool	0	0	0	1 (17%)	0	0	
Diarrhoea	1 (10%)	0	0	0	0	0	
Neutrophil Count Decrease	0	0	0	1 (17%)	0	0	
Headache	0	0	0	1 (17%)	0	0	

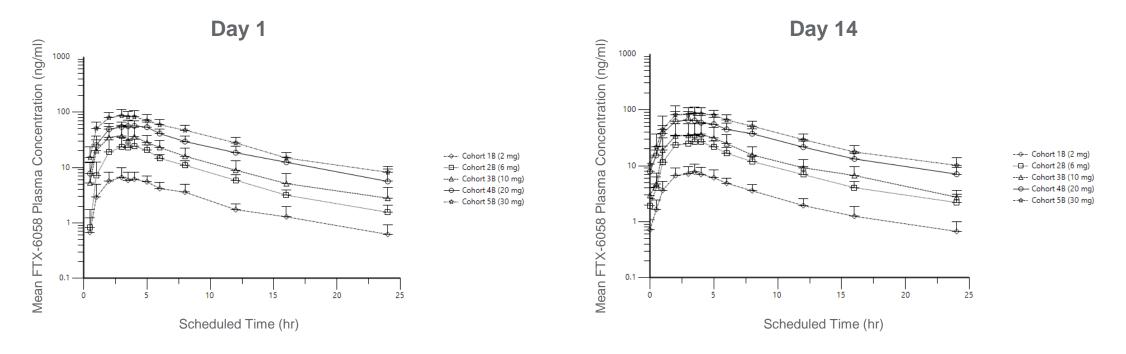
<sup>b</sup> Did not meet the WHO definition of diarrhea per protocol

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- No SAEs reported to date and no discontinuation due to TEAE
- All treatment-emergent adverse events possibly related to FTX-6058 were Grade 1 or 2 severity per CTCAE criteria and resolved
- One Grade 3 and one Grade 4 TEAE: both unrelated to FTX-6058
  - Both TEAEs were asymptomatic, incidental creatine phosphokinase (CPK) increases detected at safety follow-up visit (i.e., 7 – 10 days post-treatment) in the 20mg food effect cohort and 10mg MAD cohort, respectively

# FTX-6058 PK Profiles have Demonstrated Dose Proportionality in both SAD and MAD Cohorts

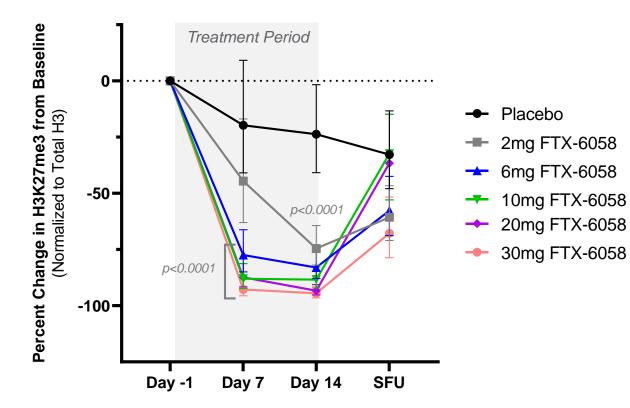
### **Plasma FTX-6058 Pharmacokinetics from MAD Cohorts**



- Dose-proportional pharmacokinetics demonstrated across both SAD and MAD cohorts
- Mean half-life was approximately 6-7 hours in the MAD cohorts, and supports QD dosing
- No food effect observed with FTX-6058

## All MAD Cohorts Demonstrate Approximately 75 – 95% Reduction in H3K27me3 Levels After 14 Days of FTX-6058 Treatment

### Mean Reduction (%) of H3K27me3 Levels

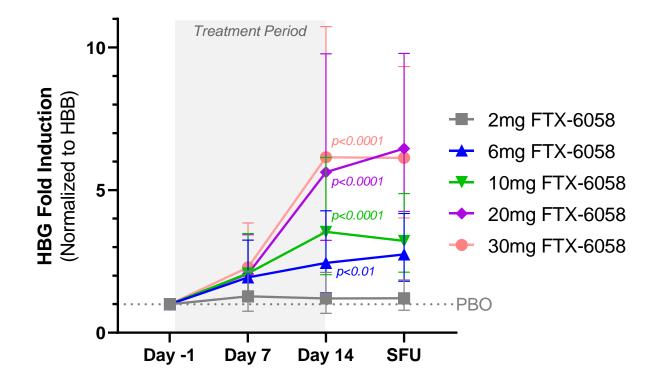


- Demonstrated proof-of-mechanism as evidenced by inhibition of H3K27me3 levels
- Robust target engagement observed in doses as low as 2mg
- Safety follow-up (SFU) samples were collected 7 – 10 days post 14-day treatment period

Data presented as estimate of mean % change based on geometric LS mean with 95% confidence interval; mixed-effects model for repeated measures (MMRM) analysis performed for Day 7 and Day 14 data; analysis of covariance (ANCOVA) utilized for SFU data; Placebo pooled from MAD cohorts 1 – 5; Percent reduction in H3K27me3 levels for 2, 6, 10mg cohorts was updated using pooled placebo from MAD 1 – 5 cohorts (versus MAD 1 – 3 cohorts in August disclosure).

# FTX-6058 Achieved Further HBG mRNA Induction in 20mg and 30mg Cohorts, With Up to a Mean 6.2-fold Induction

### HBG mRNA Induction is both Time- and Dose-dependent in MAD Cohorts

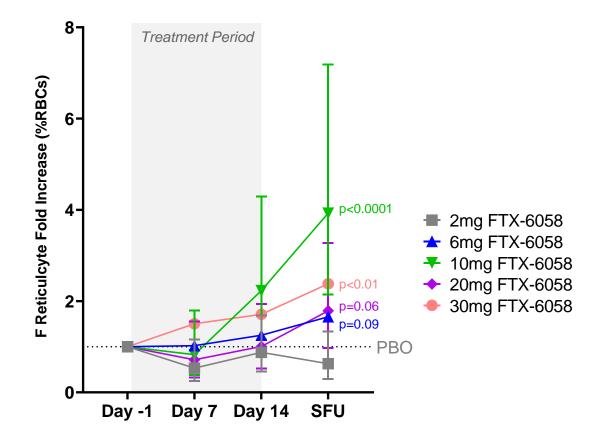


- Demonstrated proof-of-biology as evidenced by HBG mRNA induction
- At Day 14, the 6 30mg FTX-6058 cohorts achieved a mean 2.4 – 6.2 fold HBG mRNA induction
- The maximal rate of HBG induction was observed in the 20mg and 30mg cohorts
- Maximal HBG induction has not yet been achieved
- Persistent and durable HBG induction observed
  7 10 days after treatment (i.e., SFU)

Safety follow-up (SFU) samples were collected 7 – 10 days post 14-day treatment period; PBO: placebo; Data presented as geometric LS mean ratio (to placebo) with 95% confidence interval; mixed-effects model for repeated measures (MMRM) analysis performed for Day 7 and Day 14; analysis of covariance (ANCOVA) utilized for SFU data; HBG fold induction for 2, 6, 10mg cohorts was updated using pooled placebo from MAD 1 – 5 cohorts (versus MAD 1 – 3 cohorts in August disclosure).

## **Increases in F-Reticulocytes Provide Earliest Indication that HbF Protein Production is Beginning**

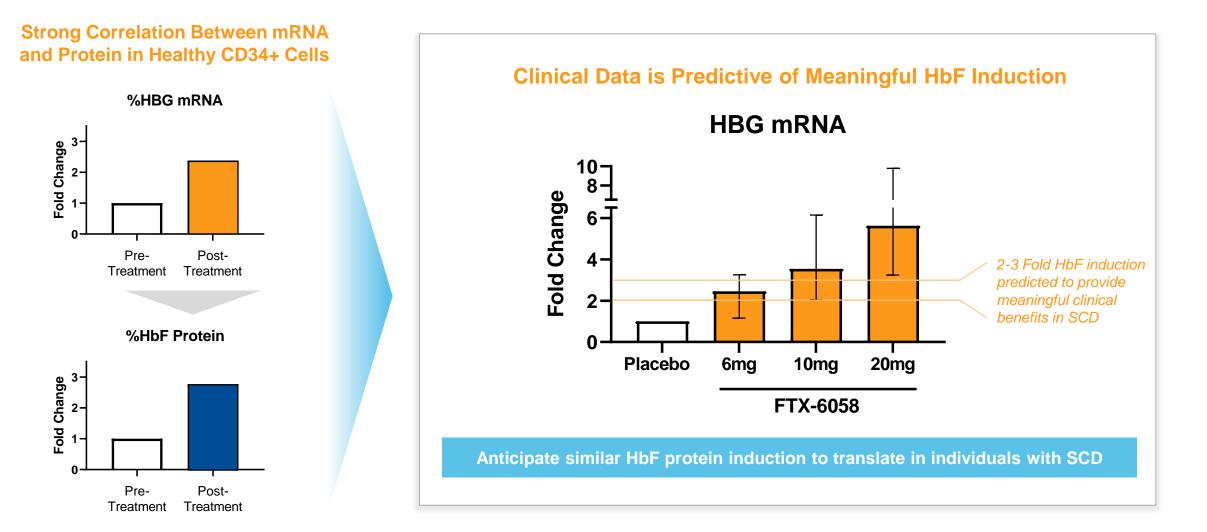
F-reticulocytes do not Predict HbF Fold Induction, but Demonstrate Translation of HBG to HbF



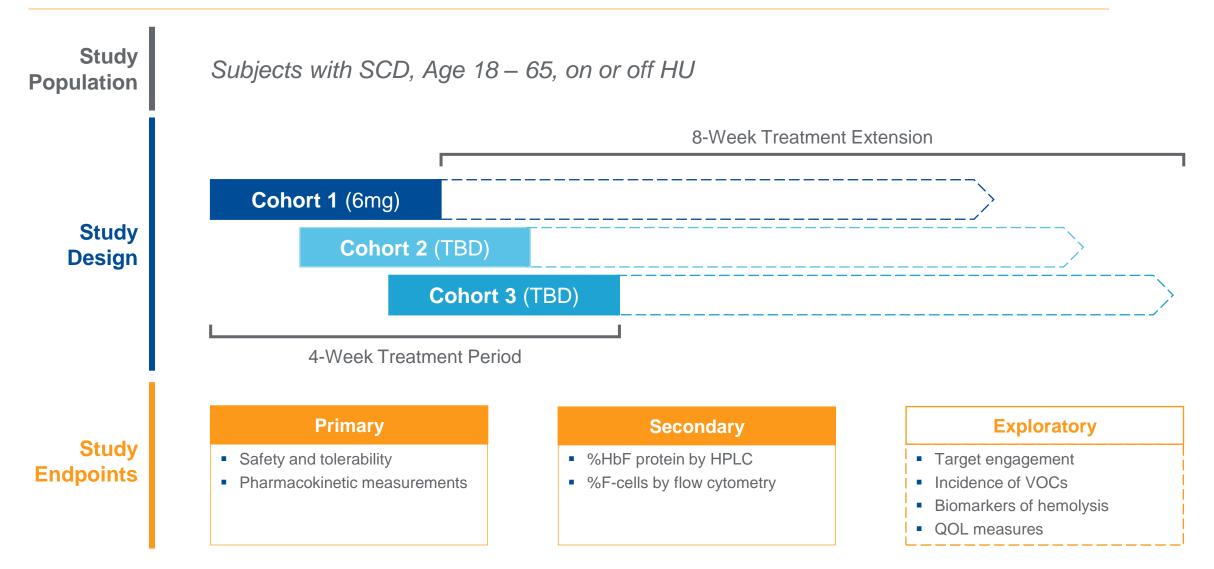
- Observed a mean 1.7 3.9 fold increase in Freticulocytes at the safety follow-up (SFU) visit with FTX-6058 doses ≥6mg
- Increases in F-reticulocytes indicates that persistent HBG mRNA induction is beginning to translate to HbF production in newly formed reticulocytes
- Further increases in F-reticulocytes, F-cells, and HbF protein are projected with longer FTX-6058 treatment duration

Safety follow-up (SFU) samples were collected 7 – 10 days post 14-day treatment period; PBO: placebo; Data presented as geometric LS mean ratio (to placebo) with 95% confidence interval; mixed-effects model for repeated measures (MMRM) analysis performed for Day 7 and Day 14; analysis of covariance (ANCOVA) utilized for SFU data; F-reticulocyte fold increases for 2, 6, 10mg cohorts was updated using pooled placebo from MAD 1 – 5 cohorts (versus MAD 1 – 3 cohorts in August disclosure).

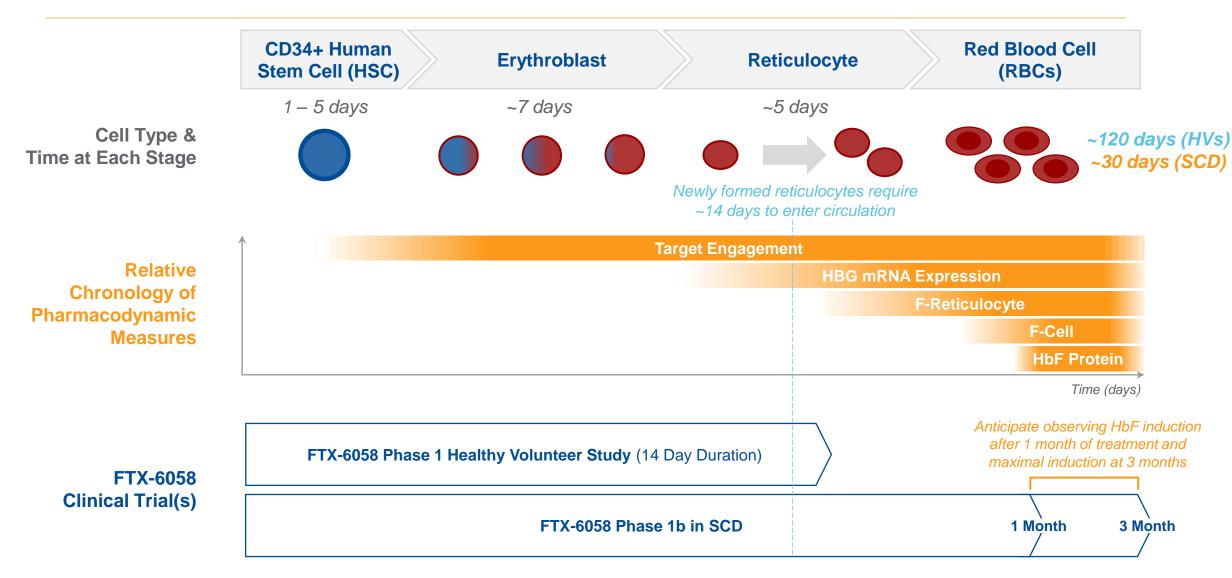
### FTX-6058 Clinical Results Achieve Induction Thresholds Predicted to Provide Meaningful Therapeutic Benefits and Potential Functional Cure to SCD Patients



# **Phase 1b Clinical Trial Design**



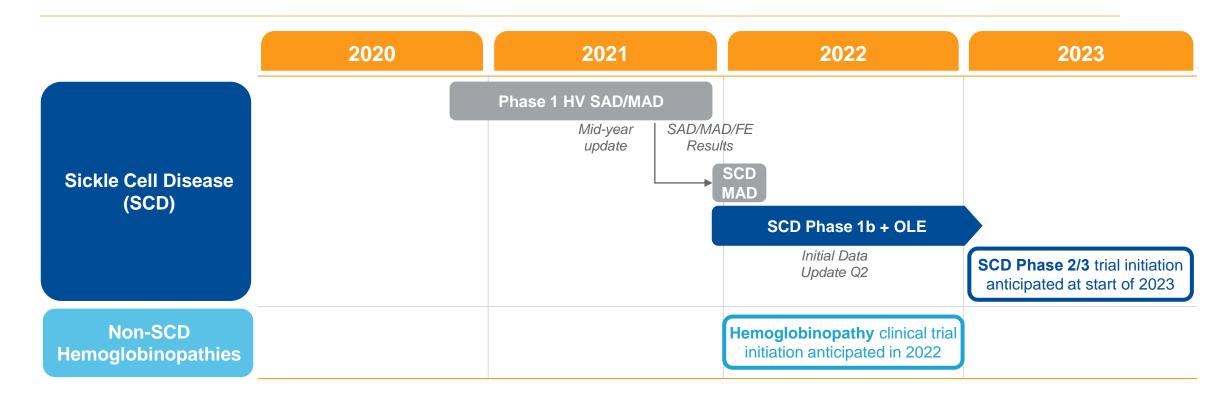
### Increased Hemolysis and Short SCD RBC Lifespan Enables Quantitative Protein Measurements After 1 – 3 Months of Treatment in Phase 1b



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F-reticulocyte: HbF-containing reticulocyte; F-cell: HbF-containing RBC; Palis, J. Front Physiol. 2014; Mescher, AL. Junqueira's Basic Histology: 41 Text and Atlas, 12<sup>th</sup> Edition, http://www.accessmedicine.com

## **FTX-6058 Anticipated Program Milestones**



- Initiate Phase 1b SCD clinical trial by year-end
- Submit IND in additional hemoglobinopathies (e.g., β-Thalassemia) by year-end
- Report initial data from Phase 1b SCD clinical trial in Q2 2022
- Initiate Phase 2/3 SCD clinical trial in 2023

# **Fulcrum** Therapeutics



