

Developing a novel and **durable** treatment for retinal diseases

CORPORATE PRESENTATION
FEBRUARY 2022

## **AsclepiX Overview**



Clinical-stage biotech leveraging computational biology from Johns Hopkins to identify and develop peptides for improved treatments of retinal diseases



**AXT107:** first-in-class integrin regulator

- Novel multi-targeted MOA inhibits VEGF and activates TIE2
- Following IVT, forms into a gel and expected to have longer lasting durability



Strong global IP portfolio (through 2039)



Completed \$35M Series A in June 2020











## Strong Leadership and Advisory Team

#### Management

Prominent biopharma executives with extensive drug development and commercial product experience in ocular diseases



Robert J. Dempsey, MBA Chief Executive Officer and President











Amir Shojaei, Pharm.D., Ph.D. Chief Scientific Officer









Niranjan B. Pandey, Ph.D. Vice President, Research & Innovation







#### **Founders & Scientific Advisory Board**

Renowned researchers developed groundbreaking computational biology portfolio in-licensed by AsclepiX

#### Aleksander S. Popel, Ph.D.

Founder, Chief Scientific Advisor, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

#### Peter A Campochiaro, M.D.

Founding Scientific Advisor, Professor, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

#### Jordan Green, Ph.D.

Founder, Chief Technology Advisor, Professor, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

#### **Board of Directors**

#### Steven Altschuler, M.D.

Chairman; Managing Director, Ziff Capital

#### Robert J. Dempsey, MBA

CEO and President

#### Josh Barer

Managing Director, Hibiscus Bioventures and Barer & Son Capital

#### Ben Askew. Ph.D.

Partner, Xontogeny

#### **Chris Garabedian**

CEO, Xontogeny PXV Fund, Perceptive Advisors

#### Jordan Green, Ph.D.

Founder & CTA, AsclepiX

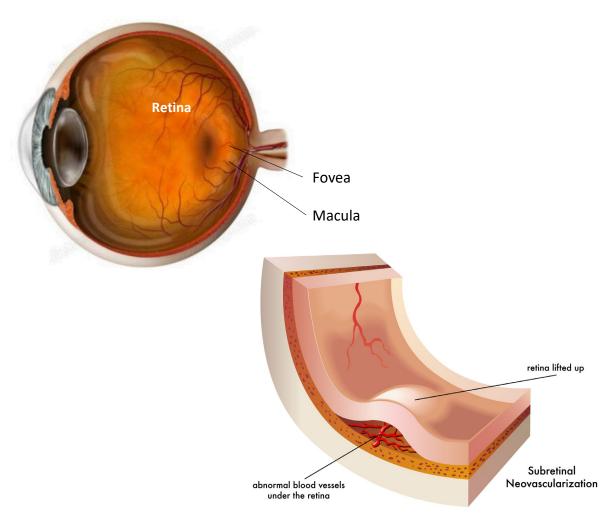
#### Sapna Srivastava, Ph.D.

Previously CSO and CFO. Abide Therapeutics



# nAMD (Neovascular AMD) and DME

**Neovascularization**, the formation of abnormal blood vessels under the retina, and **vascular leakage** are the hallmarks of both diseases, ultimately leading to vision loss



#### **Neovascular Age-Related Macular Degeneration**

- Leading cause of severe vision loss among individuals who are 65 and older
- Neovascularization triggers inflammation, hemorrhages and swelling
- Highly progressive disease

#### **Diabetic Macular Edema**

- Affects ~ 1 in 4 people with diabetes (Type 1 and Type 2)
- High blood sugar causes neovascularization, vascular leakage and swelling (edema)

# Growing nAMD Market Opportunity (~\$11B)<sup>1</sup>

#### **Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD)**



AMD (wet and dry) affects ~11M individuals in the U.S.<sup>2</sup>



While nAMD (1.1M) is less common than dry AMD, nAMD accounts for the vast majority (90%) of AMD-related vision loss in the U.S.<sup>3,4</sup>

#### **Treatment Limitations**

- > Approved treatments do not provide sustained durability
- $\triangleright$  Only 35% of nAMD patients gain >3 lines of vision with treatment<sup>5,6</sup> indicating partial or non-response
- 1. Pennington K, DeAngleis M. Epidemiology of age-related macular degeneration (AMD): associations with cardiovascular disease phenotypes and lipid factors. Eye Vis (Lond). 2016; 3: 34.
- 2. Mulligan K, et al. JAMA Opthalmol. 2020; 138(1):40-47.
- 3. Baumal CR. Am J Manag Care. 2020; 26(5 suppl):S103-S111
- 4. Rosenfeld et al. New England Journal Medicine 2006; 355: 1419-1431
- 5. Brown et al. New England Journal Medicine 2006; 355:1431-1444
- 6. Gonzalez et al. (2016) Am J Opthalmol, 172:72-79



# nAMD High Treatment Burden with Consequences for Efficacy

Approved anti-VEGF monotherapies require patients to undergo IVTs every 1-2 months (5-12x a year), leading to treatment avoidance

Treatment visits require an accompanying caregiver; patients must rely on others in order to maintain treatment regimen

#### ASRS Global Preference and Trends (PAT) Survey

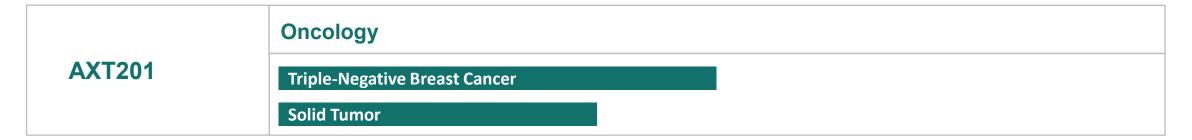
Greatest unmet needs in nAMD treatment\*



# AsclepiX's Pipeline of New Chemical Entities

### Lead program: nAMD

<b>Product Candidates</b>	Program Area	Preclinical	Phase 1/2a	Phase 2/3				
AXT107	Ophthalmology							
	Neovascular Age Related Macular Degeneration (nAMD)							
	Diabetic Macular Edema (DME)							
	Retinal Vein Occlusion							
AXT108	Ocular Surface Disease							





# Lead Candidate: AXT107



# **AXT107: NCE With Unique Multi-Targeted MOA**

#### First-in-class integrin regulator and the first product candidate designed to impact 3 key pathways

#### Inhibits neovascularization:

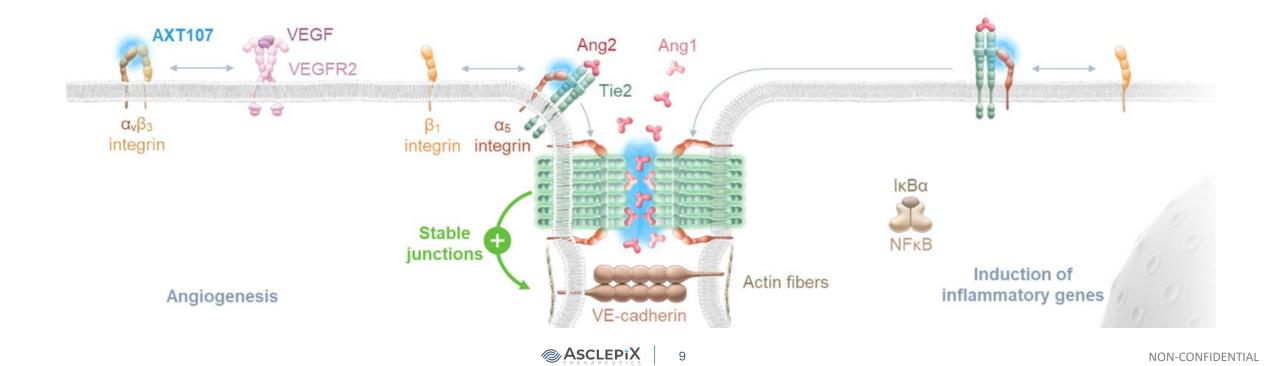
disrupts vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) R2; potently inhibits VEGF-A, C, Placenta Growth Factor (PIGF) with downstream effects

#### Reduces vascular permeability and

**leakage:** promotes TIE2 clustering at intracellular injunctions; enables Ang2 to function interchangeably with Ang1 to activate TIE2

#### **Suppresses vascular inflammation:**

inhibits NFkB-mediated inflammation



# **AXT107: Competitive Advantage**

AXT107

Yeight First-in-class

Multiple

modes of

regulator

Multiple

Yeotent

inhibition of

longer durability

regulator

VEGF family

compared to SoC

	Inhibits VEGF-A	Inhibits VEGF-C	ANG2 Inhibitor	Activates TIE2 pathway (ANG1 & ANG2)	Inhibits NFkB	<b>Durable Tre</b> a	itment Regim	ıen+
AXT107 (AsclepiX)	<b>~</b>	<b>✓</b>		<b>✓</b>	<b>~</b>	1-2		
Eylea* (Regeneron)	<b>~</b>					7	11	11
Lucentis* (Genentech)	<b>~</b>					12	1////	
Vabysmo* (Roche)	<b>~</b>		<b>~</b>			6-8	11	11
KSI-301 (Kodiak)	<b>~</b>					5 // //		

<sup>\*</sup> Approved product

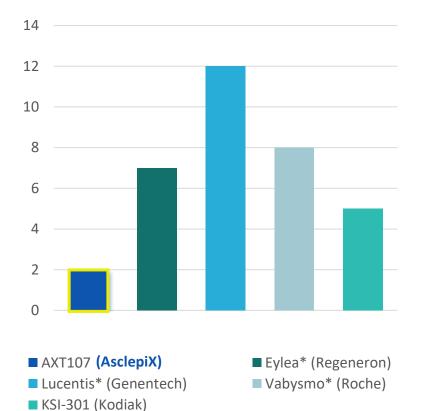
<sup>+</sup> Number of injections during the first year of treatment

# AXT107 is Differentiated by its Long-Lasting Durability

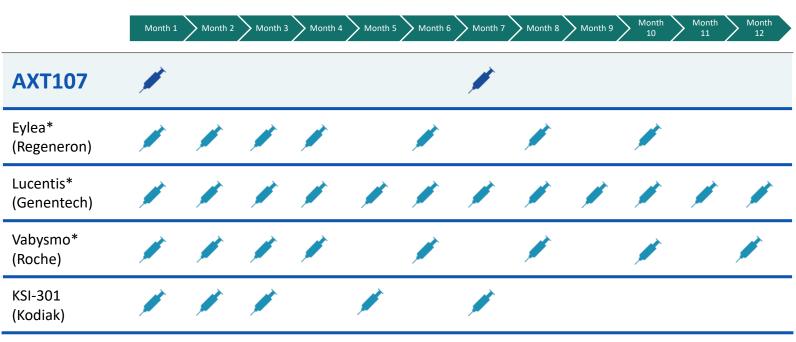
#### **AXT107** potentially requires only 1-2 IVTs per year:

- significantly fewer IVTs than SoC and late-stage programs in development
- potential to improve treatment options for patients and meaningfully impact quality of life





#### **Loading Doses and Maintenance Injections**<sup>+</sup>



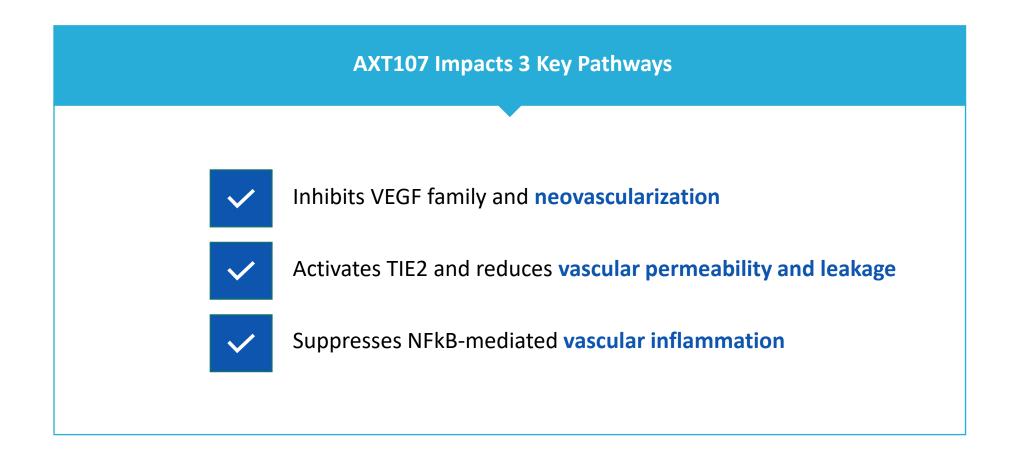
<sup>\*</sup> Approved product



# Preclinical Data of AXT107



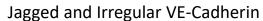
### AXT107 Preclinical Data Demonstrates Multimodal Mechanism of Action

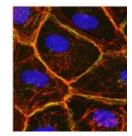


# AXT107 Inhibits Neovascularization and Vascular Leakage In Vitro

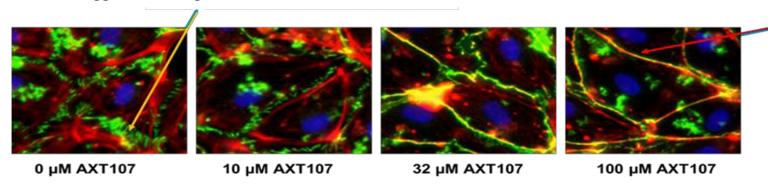
#### **Endothelial Cells in Culture**<sup>1</sup>

Staining for VE-Cadherin and Actin on Endothelial Cells





Well formed endothelial cell junctions with co-localized Actin and VE-Cadherin<sup>2</sup>

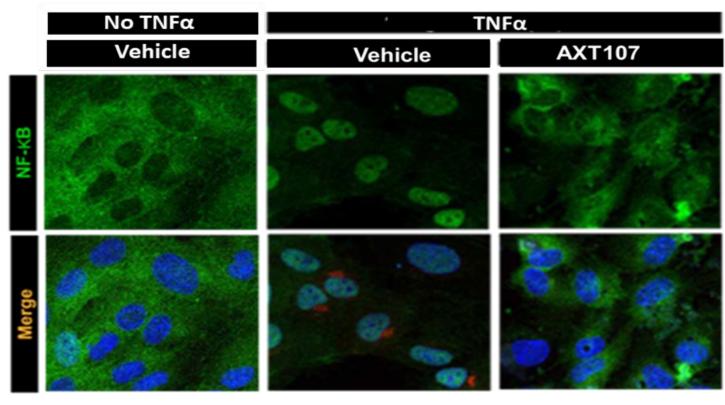


Co-localized Actin and VE-Cadherin at Cell-Cell Junction

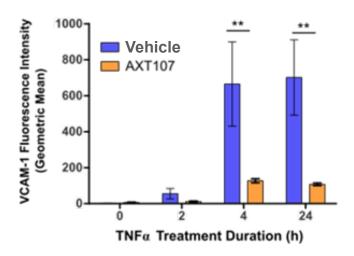
<sup>1.</sup> A Mirando et al Collagen IV Derived Peptide Disrupts  $\alpha_5\beta_1$  Integrin Potentiates Ang2 Tie2 Signaling JCI Insight February 21, 2019

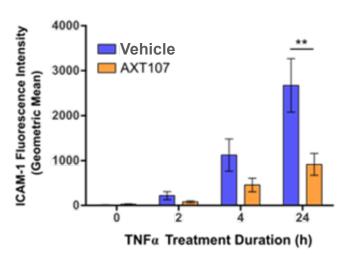
<sup>2 .</sup> I Chrifi et al CMTM4 regulates angiogenesis by promoting cell surface recycling of VE-cadherin to endothelial adherens junctions Angiogenesis 2019

## AXT107 Suppresses Vascular Inflammation In Vitro



- NFkB is normally in the cytoplasm – shown in green
- Nucleus is stained in blue
- TNFα causes NFκB to enter the nucleus where it activates transcription of inflammatory proteins like VCAM-1 and ICAM-1
- AXT107 activates TIE2 to inhibit TNFα
- AXT107 suppresses inflammation as NFκB remains in cytoplasm and levels of inflammatory proteins like VCAM-1 and ICAM-1 are reduced

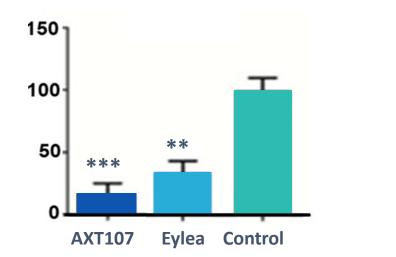




# AXT107 Compared Favorably to Eylea (aflibercept) in Animal Models

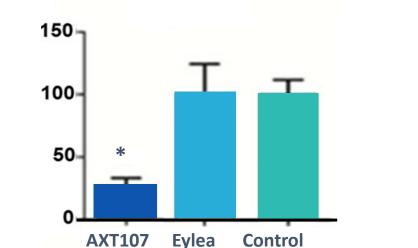
#### Rabbit VEGF Induced Vascular Edema Model





- AXT107 showed statistically significant inhibition of leakage up through 30 days
- Remaining leakage is reduced by 55% compared to Eylea





 Single administration of AXT107 inhibited leakage up through 60 days, while Eylea is inactive by day 60



# Latest Phase 1/2a Clinical Data



# Phase 1/2a Study of AXT107 in nAMD

Open-label, doseescalating, 48-week study

Assessing the safety, tolerability, bioactivity and duration of action of a single intravitreal injection of 100 mcg, 250 mcg, or 500 mcg of AXT107

Data in low dose cohort (n=3) - all subjects dosed at 100 mcg

#### **Baseline Characteristics:**

- Ages 76 84 years old, with clinical history of responding to anti-VEGF injections
- Number of anti-VEGF injections in 12 months prior to baseline: 1-4
- BCVA (letters): 21–64 at baseline

**Primary Objective:** safety

**Secondary Objectives:** efficacy measured by retinal thickness (central subfield thickness: CST) and Best Corrected Visual Acuity (BCVA)

# Phase 1/2a Study of AXT107 in DME

Open-label, doseescalating, 48-week study

Assessing the safety, tolerability, bioactivity and duration of action of a single intravitreal injection of 100 mcg, 250 mcg, or 500 mcg of AXT107

Data in low dose (100 mcg) and mid dose (250 mcg) cohorts - 3 subjects in each cohort

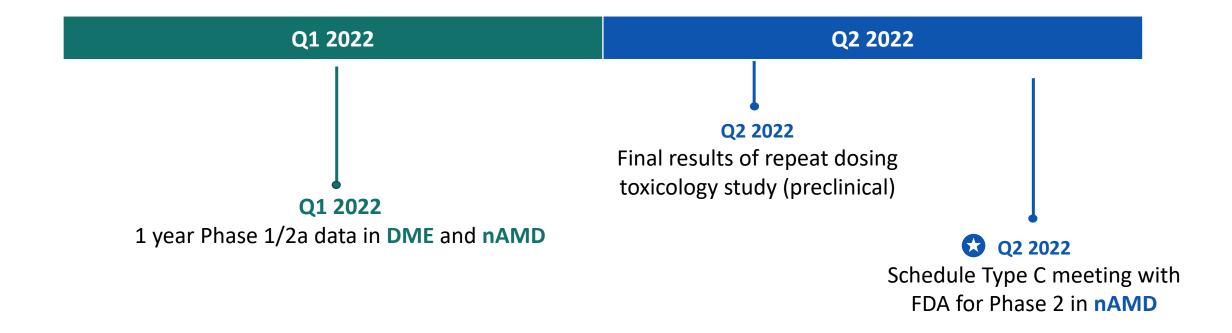
#### **Baseline Characteristics:**

- Age range: 55 75 years old
- Number of anti-VEGF injections in 12 months prior to baseline:
   4-12
- BCVA letters: 56–65 at baseline

**Primary Objective:** safety

**Secondary Objectives:** efficacy measured by retinal thickness (central subfield thickness: CST) and Best Corrected Visual Acuity (BCVA)

# Multiple Value-Driving Clinical/Regulatory Milestones in the Next Six Months



# AsclepiX Summary



Committed leadership team with extensive experience in clinical development in retinal diseases



**AXT107:** new chemical entity impacting multiple pathways currently in Phase 1/2a studies for nAMD and DME

- Inhibits VEGF family and neovascularization
- Activates TIE2 and reduces vascular permeability and leakage
- Suppresses NFkB-mediated vascular inflammation



Preclinical data compared favorably to Eylea (aflibercept)



A total of 9 subjects completing study (48 weeks)



Multiple value-driving clinical milestones in 2022



Corporate Headquarters

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# **Appendix**



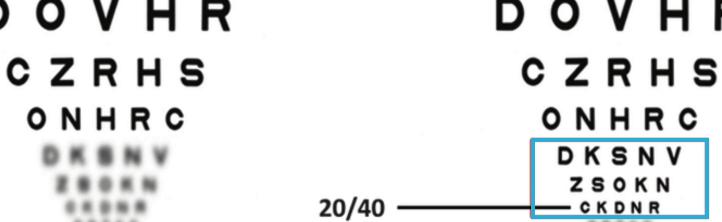
# Vision Measured by Best Corrected Visual Acuity (BCVA)

NCKZO<sup>20/200</sup> NCKZO
RHSDK
DOVHR
DOVHR

#### **Example:**

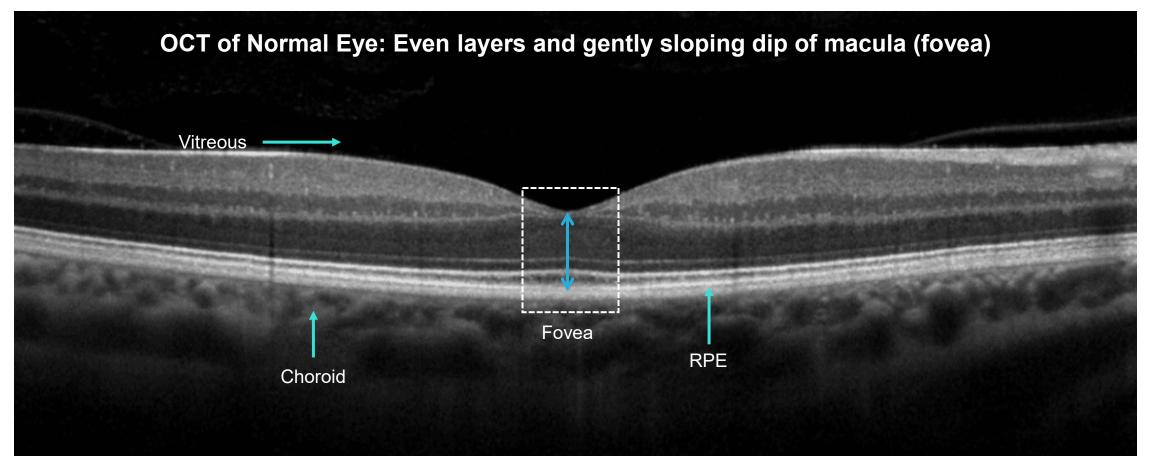
15-letter gain
(3 lines on ETDRS chart)

**20/40 BCVA Snellen equivalent** (minimum driving equivalent)



# In macular diseases, retinal thickness is correlated with greater vision loss

Widely used diagnostic imaging for retinal disease enabling visualization of the vitreous, retinal layers, retinal pigment epithelium, and choroidal layers





**CRT**: Central retinal thickness

(normal: 260 – 280 μm)