



## SELECTED OPPORTUNITIES IN DERMATOLOGY

Use of NGAL Inhibitors for treating chronic wound (BIO 19230)

### ▶ **Target:**

- ◆ Lipocalin 2 (NGAL)

### ▶ **Product:**

- ◆ Tested: KO mice
- ◆ Could be generated: NGAL inhibitors for topical use

### ▶ **Application:**

- ◆ Wound healing

### ▶ **Rational:**

- ◆ Chronic wounds and in particular diabetic ulcers are a serious complication of diabetes. Unresolved inflammation, associated with the dysregulation of both the phenotype and function of macrophages, is involved in the poor healing of diabetic wounds

### ▶ **POC:**

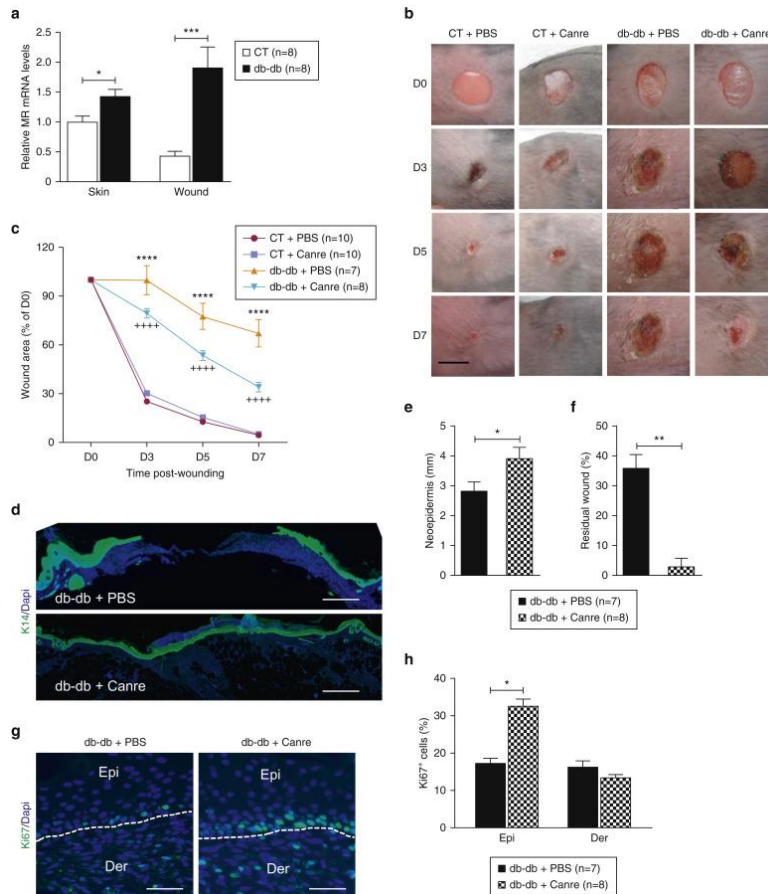
- ◆ Topical pharmacological inhibition of the mineralocorticoid receptor (MR) by canrenoate or MR siRNA can resolve inflammation to improve delayed skin wound healing in diabetic mouse models
- ◆ Diabetic Lcn2-deficient mice showed improved wound healing, associated with macrophage M2 polarization and angiogenesis
- ◆ Recombinant Lcn2 protein prevented IL4-induced macrophages switch from M1 to M2 phenotype

### ▶ **Patent and publication:**

- ◆ EP19305664: USE OF NGAL INHIBITORS FOR THE TREATING CHRONIC WOUND
- ◆ *Cutaneous Wound Healing in Diabetic Mice Is Improved by Topical Mineralocorticoid Receptor Blockade.* Nguyen VT *et al.* **J Invest Dermatol.** 2020 Jan;140(1):223-234.

## Proof of concept

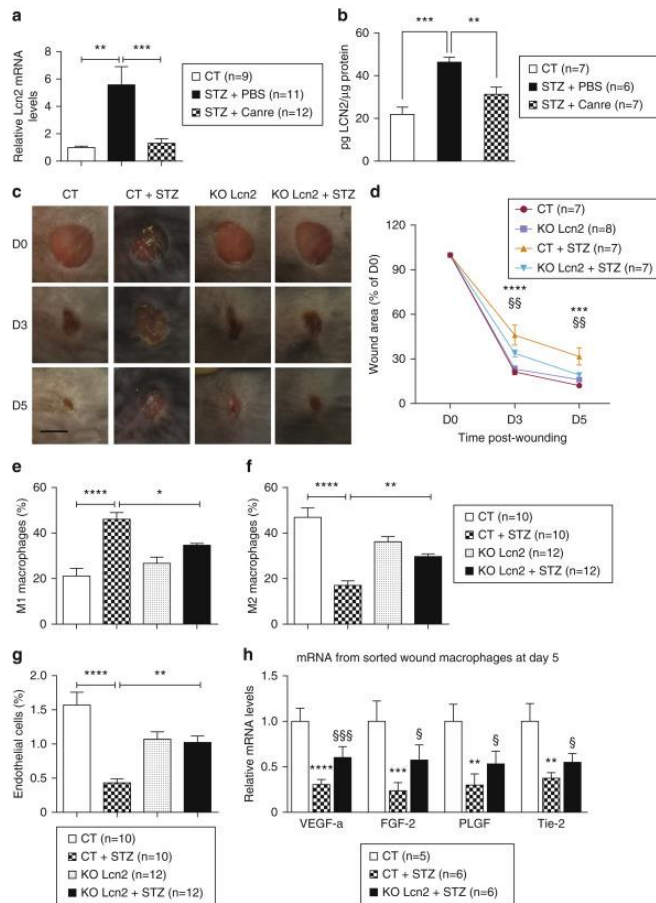
### Canrenoate improves delayed wound healing in type 2 diabetic mice



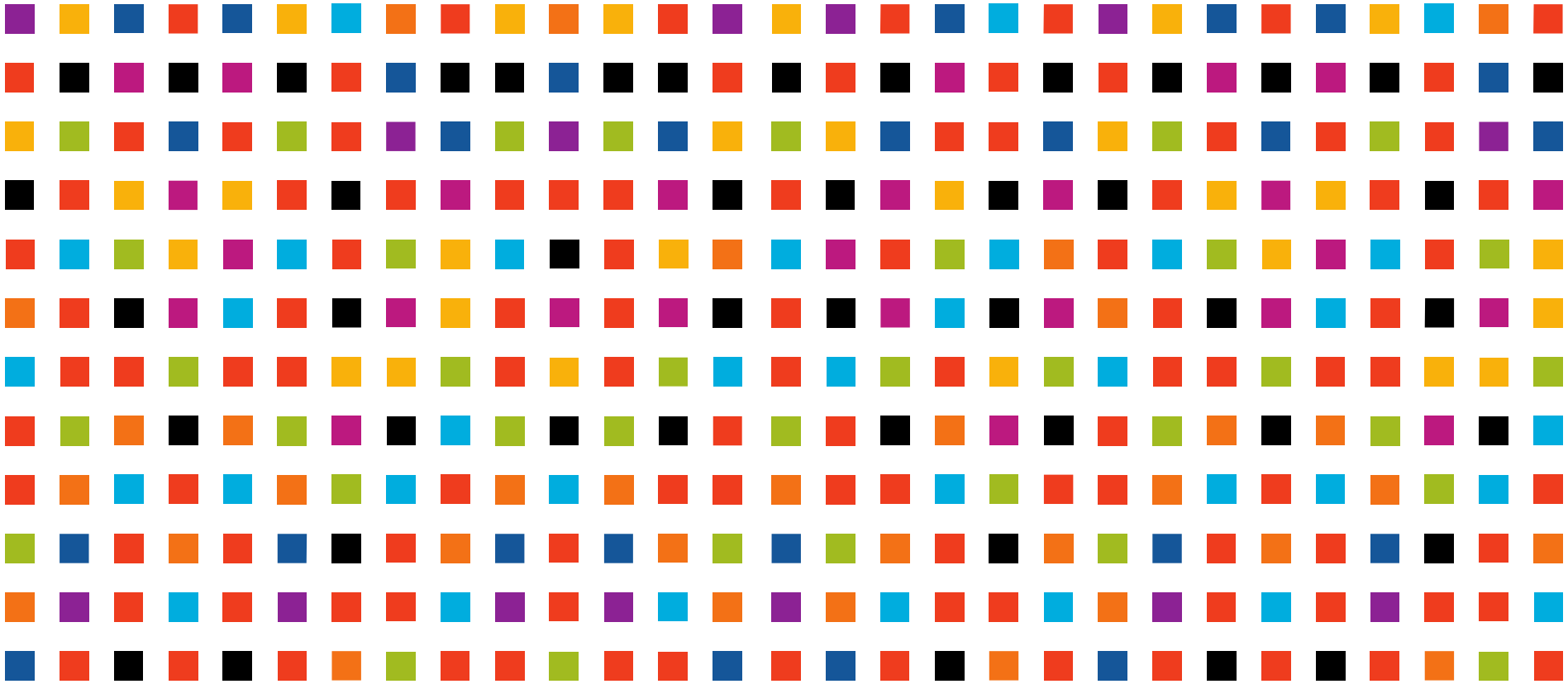
(a) Real-time PCR analysis of MR mRNA expression in the skin or wounds (day 7) of db-db mice, relative to that of CT. (b) Photographs and (c) quantification of the wound area of CT and db-db mice treated with canrenoate or PBS at the indicated time post-wounding. (d) Wound sections at day 7 post-wounding labeled with anti-K14 antibody (green) and DAPI (blue). Quantification of (e) the length of the neopidermis and (f) diameter of the residual wound. (g) Anti-Ki67 (green) staining and quantification of Ki67-positive cells in the neopidermis and (h) underlying dermis; dotted lines represent the dermo-epidermis junction. Data represent mean ± SEM; n = number of mice per group, from 2 experimental series. (a, e, f, and h) Mann-Whitney test; c: two-way ANOVA followed by the Newman-Keuls multiple comparison test. \*P < 0.05; \*\*P < 0.01; \*\*\*P < 0.001; \*\*\*\*P < 0.0001 db-db vs CT; \*\*\*\*\*P < 0.0001 db-db vs db-db + Canre. ANOVA, analysis of variance; Canre, canrenoate; CT, control; Der, dermis; Epi, neopidermis; MR, mineralocorticoid receptor; PBS, phosphate buffered saline; SEM, standard error of the mean. (d) Bar = 500 μm, (g) Bar = 100 μm.

## Proof of concept

### LCN2 deficiency prevents the diabetes-induced delay of wound healing



(a) LCN2 mRNA and (b) protein levels in wounds at day 5 were analyzed by real-time PCR and ELISA. (c–h) Diabetes was induced in wild-type (CT) and Lcn2 KO mice by STZ injections before wounding. (c) Photographs and (d) quantification of the wound area from CT and Lcn2 KO mice with or without STZ treatment at the indicated times post-wounding. (e) M1 and (f) and M2 macrophages and (g) endothelial cells of wounds at day 5 were quantified by FACS analysis. (h) Total macrophages were sorted from wounded skin at day 5 and angiogenic factors mRNA levels were analyzed by real-time PCR. Data represent mean  $\pm$  SEM; n = number of mice per group, from 2 experimental series. (a, e–h) one-way ANOVA followed by the Newman-Keuls multiple comparison test; (d) 2-way ANOVA followed by the Newman-Keuls multiple comparison test. \* $P < 0.05$ ; \*\* $P < 0.01$ ; \*\*\* $P < 0.001$ ; \*\*\*\* $P < 0.0001$  CT + STZ vs CT. \$\$\$ $P < 0.01$  CT + STZ vs Lcn2 KO + STZ. ANOVA, analysis of variance; Canre, canrenoate; CT, control; FACS, fluorescence activated cell sorting; KO, knockout; PBS, phosphate buffered saline; SEM, standard error of the mean; STZ, streptozotocin.



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