

## Discovery and Antifibrotic Activity of an Anti-LTBP-TGFβ1 Inhibitory Antibody

### Poster #77

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# Revolutionary Approach to Regulating TGF $\beta$ Superfamily Implicated in Devastating Diseases

• Scholar Rock's Target Latent Growth Factor



Traditional Target "mature" growth factor



#### TGFβ Superfamily: Highly Sought-After Targets

Recognized by the industry as important targets given their fundamental roles in regulating a variety of cellular processes Dysregulation plays a role in devastating diseases that have a high unmet need, including:

- Neuromuscular disorders
- Fibrosis
- Oncology

#### Scholar Rock's R&D Platform Transforming Medical Practice

- Selectively target the latent form of growth factors in the microenvironment of cells and tissues with uniquely designed antibodies
- Overcome the challenges that plague traditional approaches that target the "mature" growth factor, which are difficult to differentiate and lead to unintended negative effects



# Latent TGF<sub>β1</sub> Forms Covalent, Large Latent Complexes with a Presenting Molecule



#### Hypothesis: LTBP-TGFβ1 drives fibrotic pathogenesis

Inhibition of immune-associated TGFβ1 results in immune cell activation and inflammation, which could be deleterious in an antifibrotic therapeutic



#### Multiple Rounds of Affinity Maturation were Required to Attain Highly LTBP-TGFβ1 Selective Antibodies





- Poster #77 describes the affinity maturation campaign deployed to engineer LTBP-49247, a pM affinity antibody specific to LTBP complexes of TGFβ1
- Binding measured by a Meso Scale Discovery solution equilibrium titration assay
- LTBP-49247 is cross-reactive to mouse, rat, and cyno LTBP-TGFβ1



# HDX Informs the Mechanism of LTBP-TGF $\beta$ 1 Selectivity as Well as The Mechanism of Inhibitory Activity



- Structural studies elucidate the epitope of LTBP-49247 on the small latent complex of TGF  $\beta1$ 
  - Epitope is very close to the presenting molecule, predicted clash with GARP & LRRC33
  - Binding to both latency associated peptide (LAP) and growth factor

### LTBP-49247 Reduces pSmad2 and Fibrosis in a Mouse Model of Alport Syndrome



- Alport Syndrome is a rare genetic disease caused by mutations in COL4
  - Disease is characterized by progressive kidney injury and fibrosis
- Model above is in Col4A3<sup>-/-</sup> mice
- Potent effect with LTBP-49247 down to 1 mg/kg dose





- Scholar Rock's approach of targeting latent growth factors has enabled unprecedented specificity in targeting the TGFβ superfamily
- Extensive affinity maturation deployed to engineer LTBP-49247, an antibody that inhibits the activation of LTBP-TGF $\beta$ 1
- Selective inhibition of matrix-associated LTBP-TGFβ1 exhibits target engagement and anti-fibrotic efficacy in a preclinical rodent model of kidney fibrosis (Alport)
  - Avoids safety liabilities associated with pan-TGFβ inhibition
  - Does not trigger immune cell activation associated with targeting TGF  $\beta 1$  in the immune milieu





## Thank you!

### **Poster #77** Justin Jackson

