

# Disclosure – conflict of interest

✓ I have the following potential conflict(s) of interest to report

- Name of commercial company: BioMarin Pharmaceutical Inc.
- Stock shareholder: BioMarin Pharmaceutical In.

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# Exploring actionable strategies to improve AAV5-hFVIII-SQ durability and optimize gene expression

Building  
Bridges in  
Coagulation

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Presenter: Simon Harris

Bridget Yates, Dafna J. Groeneveld, Stephen Scheeler, Britta Handyside,

Isaac Villalpando, Suresh Agarwal, Stuart Bunting, Sylvia Fong



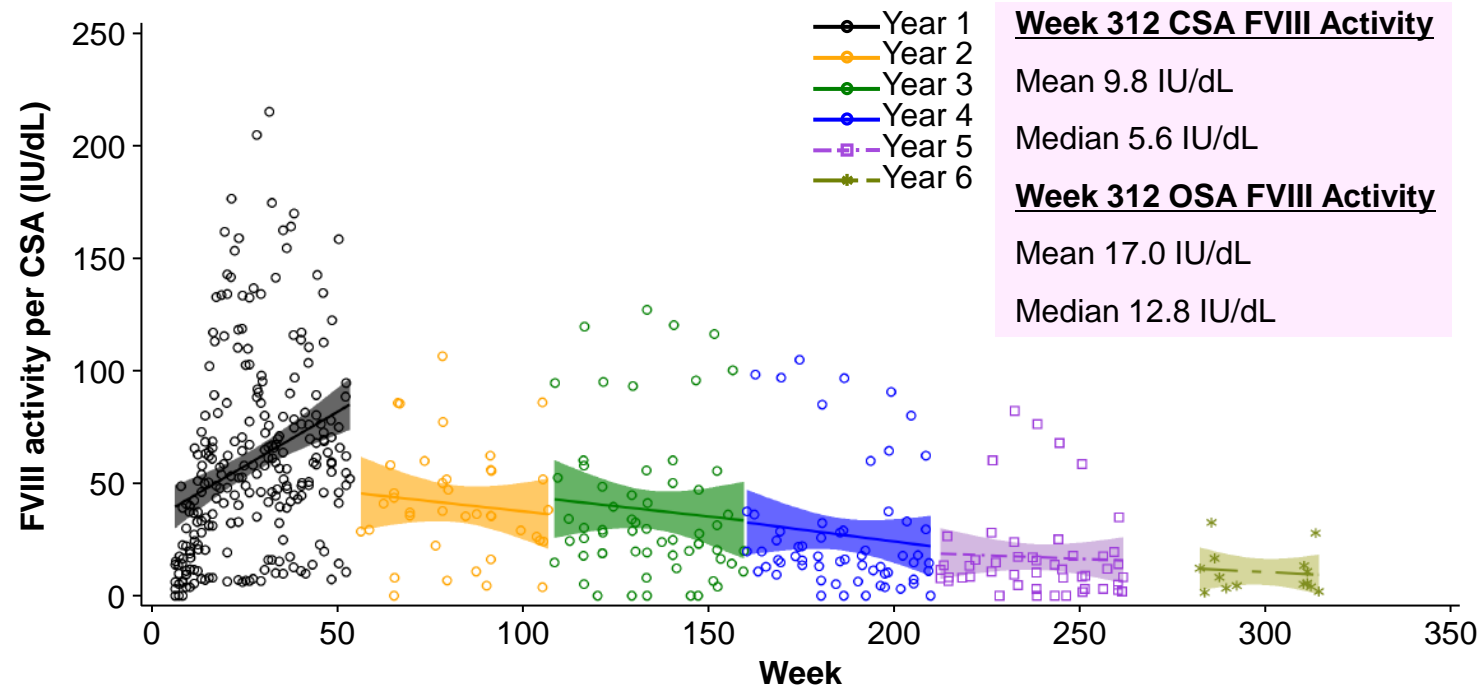
# Disclosures

- **All** are employees and shareholders of BioMarin Pharmaceutical Inc.



# AAV gene therapy for haemophilia A

- Efficacy
  - Haemostatic benefit relative to FVIII prophylaxis
  - Quality of life
- Safety profile
- Variability
  - Intra & inter-study
- Durability



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# Decline/variability in expression observed AAV-FVIII trials

- Understanding the mechanism leading loss of expression and variable response is needed to identify intervening strategies
  - Loss of expression maybe related to decrease AAV episome transcription
  - Variable response maybe related to individuals' abilities to fold and secrete FVIII proteins

## Goal

- Strategies to maximize durability will provide patients longer benefit following gene therapy administration
  - Reverse decline of transgene expression
  - Increase FVIII secretion

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# Decline of FVIII expression

Actionable strategy to reverse decline

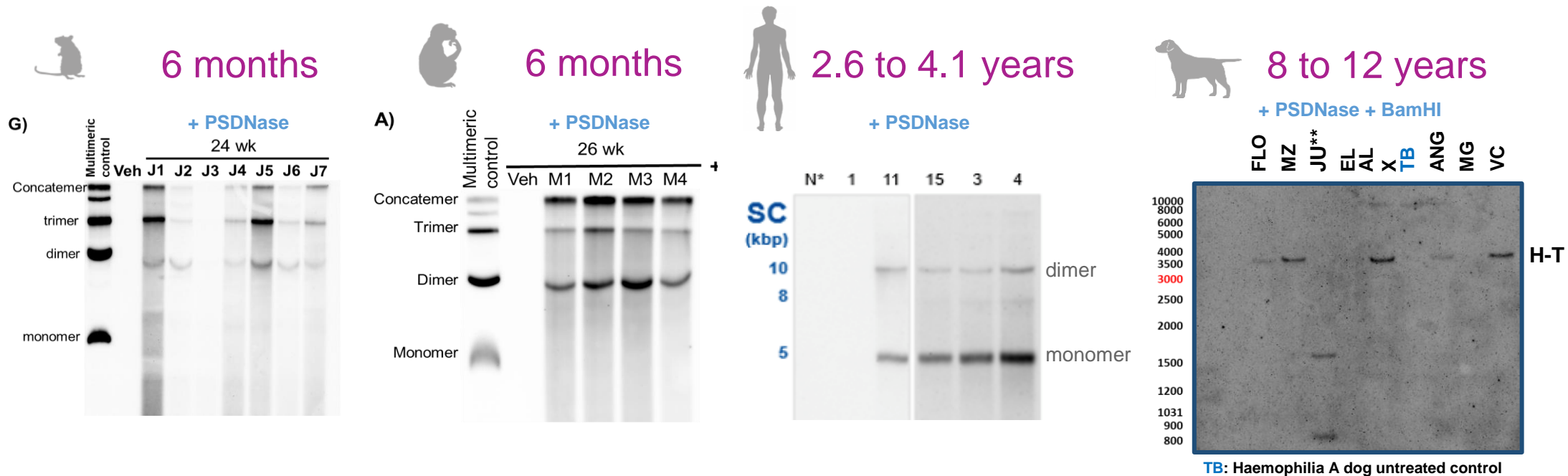
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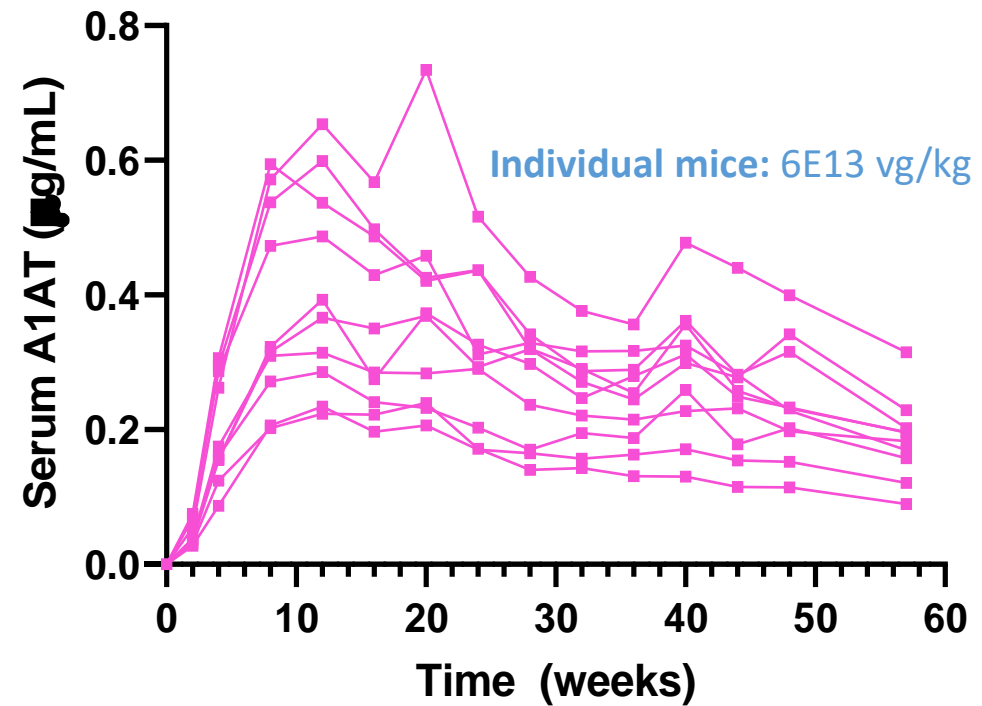
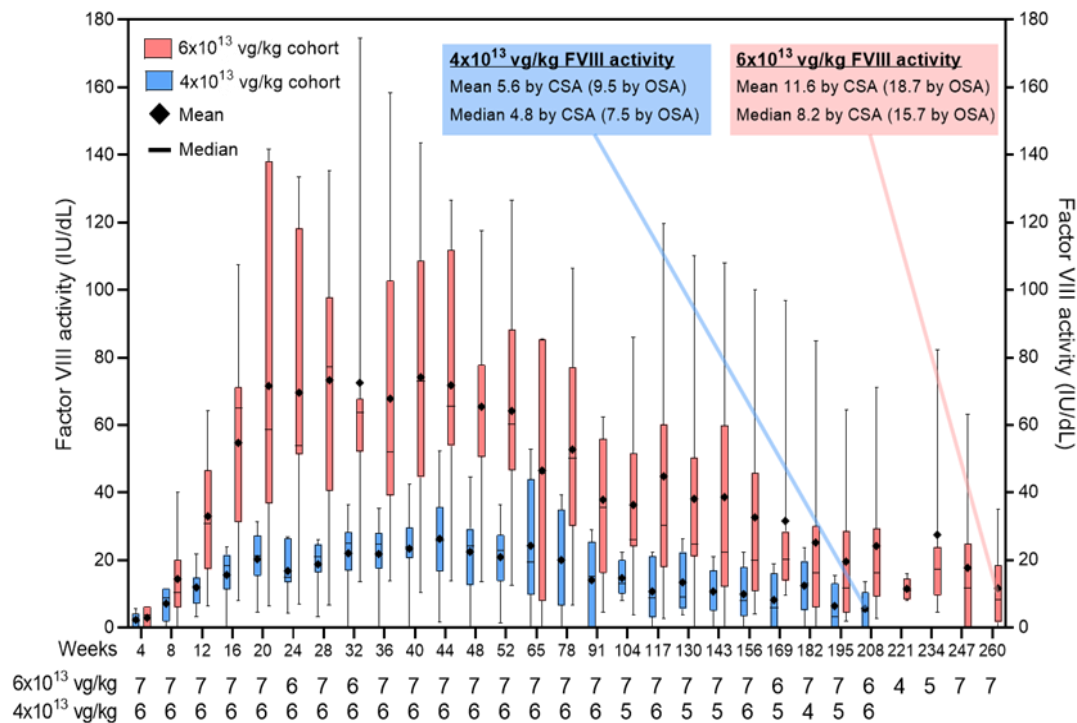
# Stable episomes persist following AAV-FVIII GT



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# Multiple lines of evidence suggest low RNA production contributes to the decline of FVIII expression or low response to AAV-GT



**Longitudinal Murine Study:** Decreased interaction of active histones with episomal genomes may mediate the decline in transgene expression over time (Handyside *et al. Mol Ther* 2022)



**Drug-induced suppression** of FVIII expression following Accutane treatment was observed in clinic. In vitro studies showed Accutane decreased RNA transcript levels without affecting AAV vector genomes (Liu *et al. MTCMD*. 2022)



**Human Biopsy Analysis:** In one non-responder, hepatocytes expressed little RNA despite similar levels of vector genome (Fong *et al. Nat Med*. 2022)

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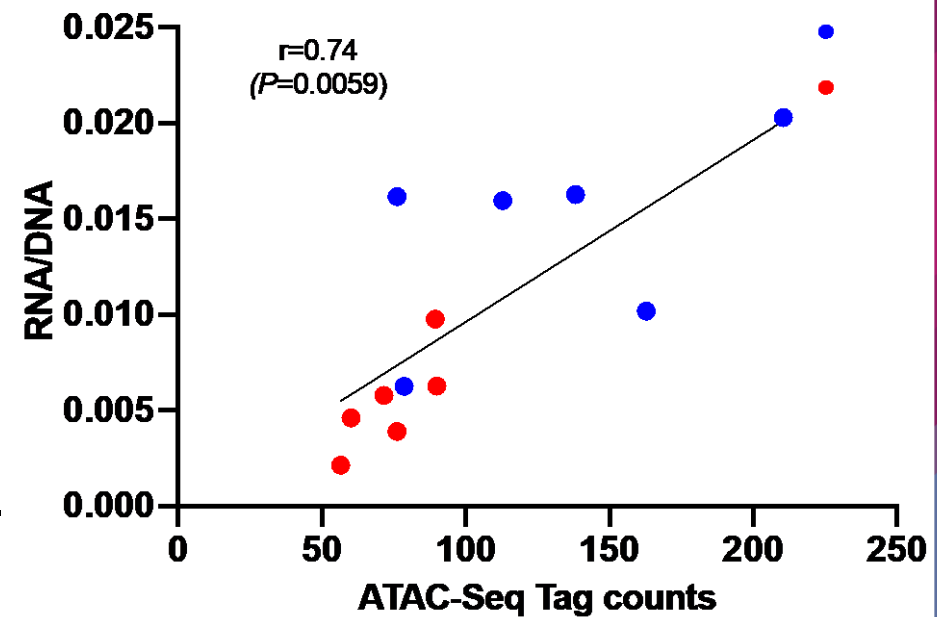
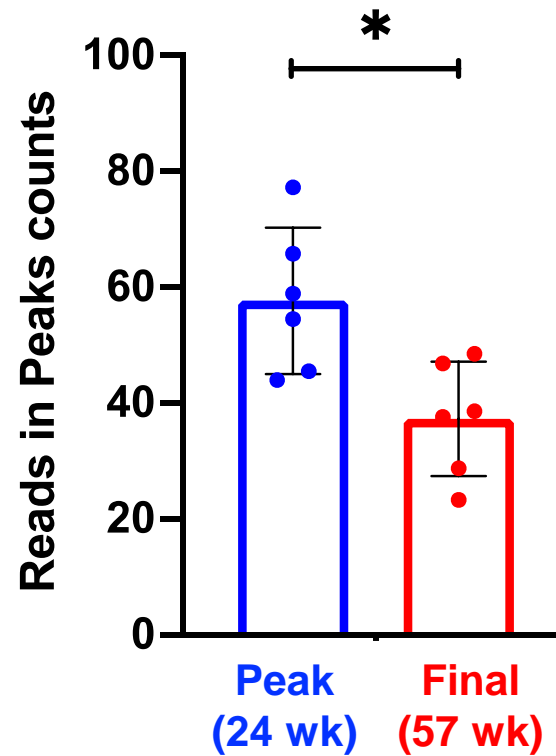
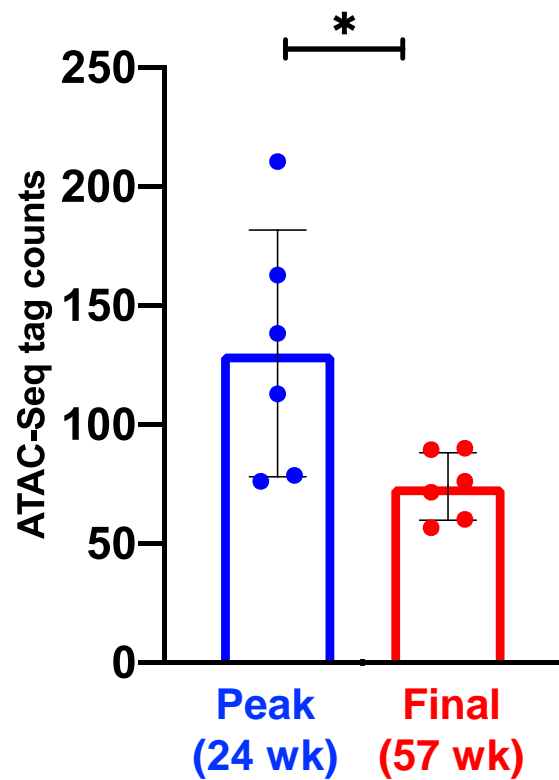


# Genome accessibility may mediate decline in RNA expression in mice



Vector genome accessibility    Interaction with active Histone

H3H27ac



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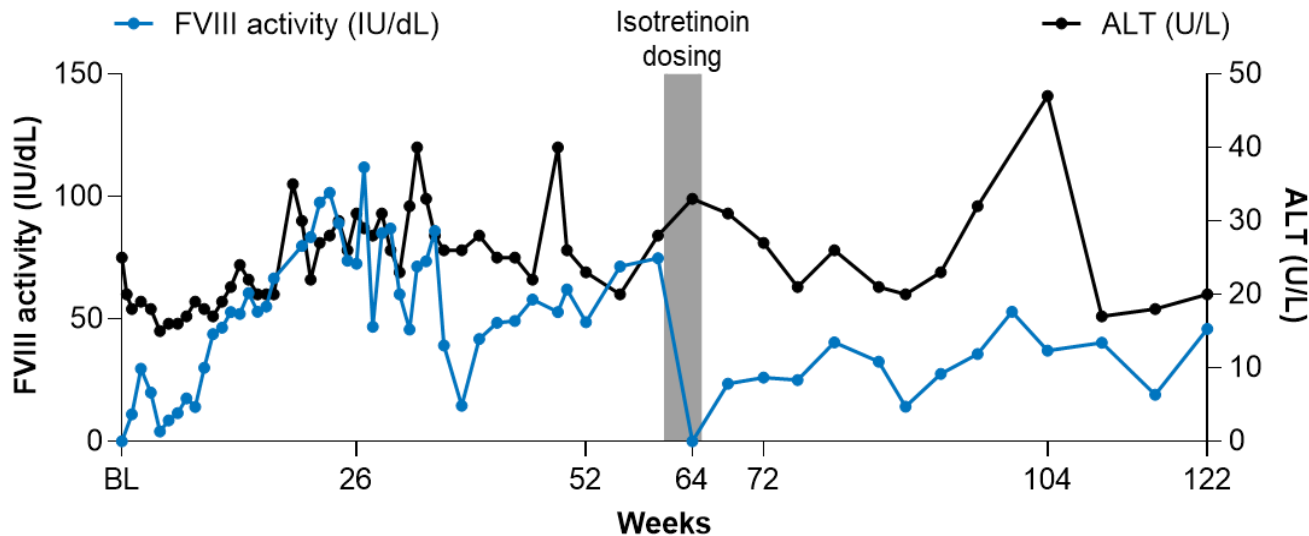
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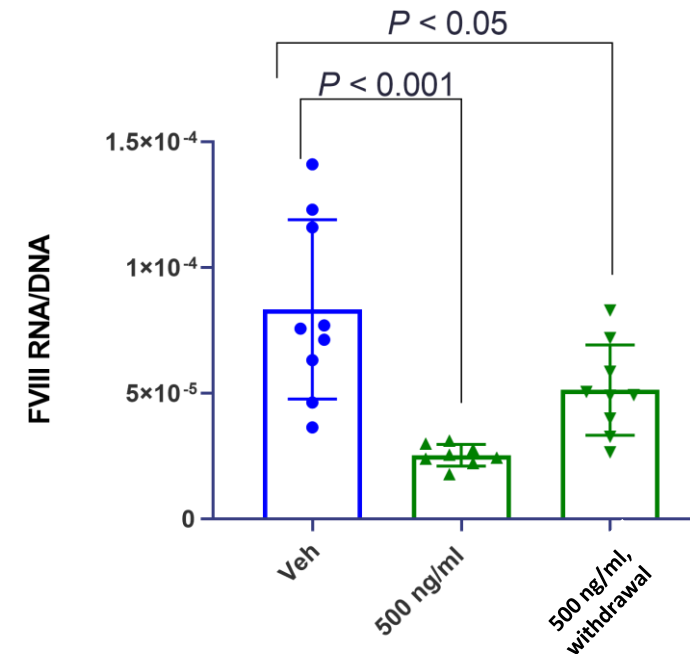
# Transcriptional regulation contributes to decline in expression in human



FVIII plasma levels decline following Accutane Rx in clinical trial participant who received  $6 \times 10^{13}$  vg/kg of AAV5-hFVIII-SQ (valoctocogene roxaparvovec)



Effect of Accutane\* on AAV5-hFVIII-SQ (valoctocogene roxaparvovec) occurs at the RNA level in primary human hepatocytes



\*Accutane did not induce hepatotoxicity; had no effect on vector genome levels

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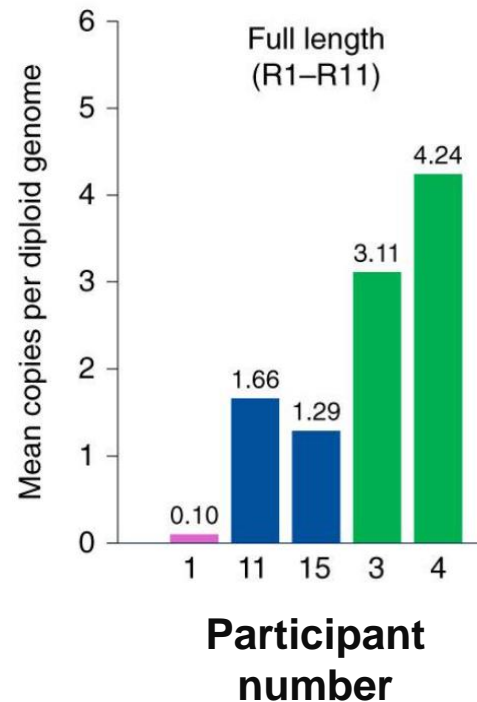
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# Human Biopsy Analysis: In one non-responder, hepatocytes expressed little RNA despite similar levels of vector genome

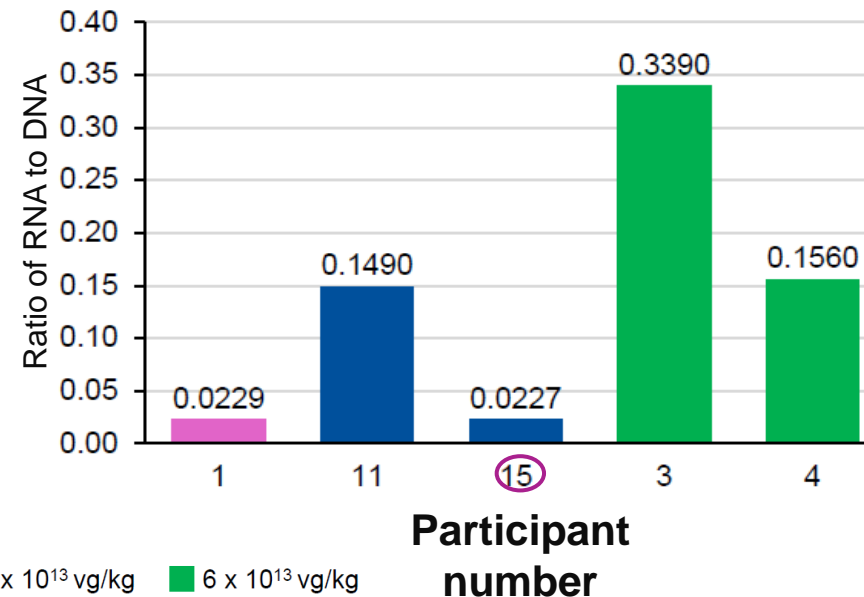


Episomal vector are similar



AAV episomes can persist over time and assimilate into chromatin with a typical nucleosomal pattern<sup>2</sup>

Low RNA to DNA ratio in low responder (P15)



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# HDACi reverses drug-induced ROCTAVIAN silencing in vitro

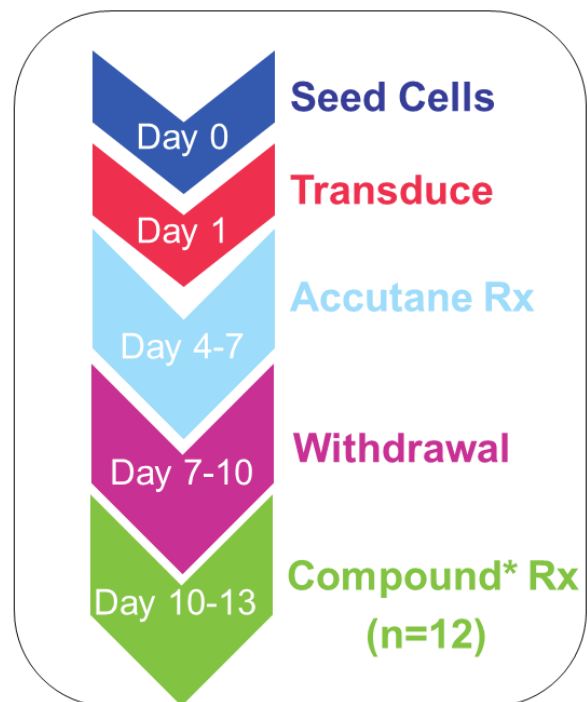
**Hypothesis:** Modifying the chromatin interaction with AAV-episomes using epigenetic modulators may increase accessibility of vector genomes potentially reactivating vector genome expression

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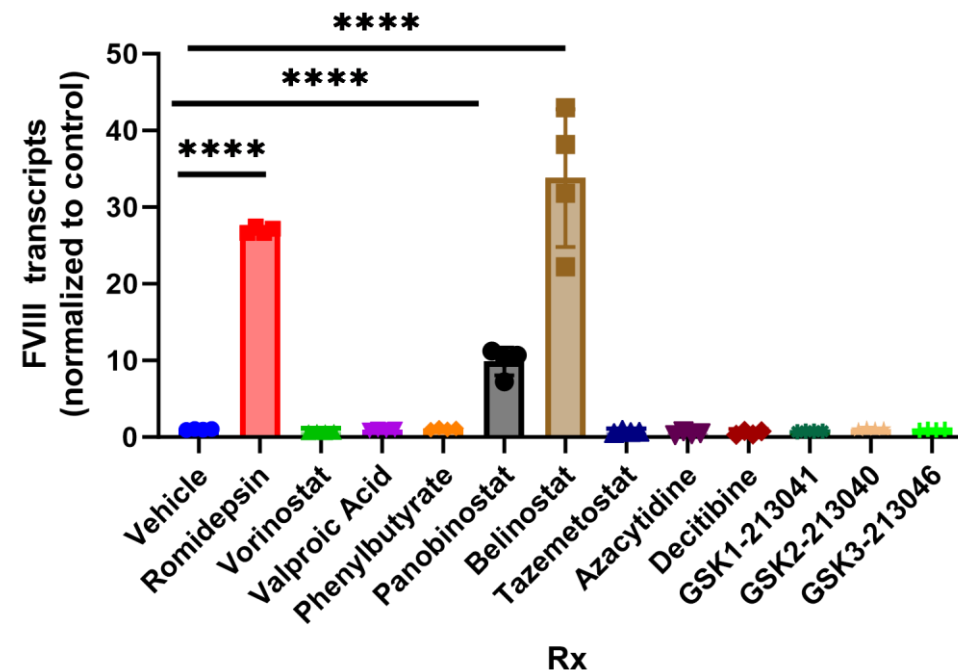
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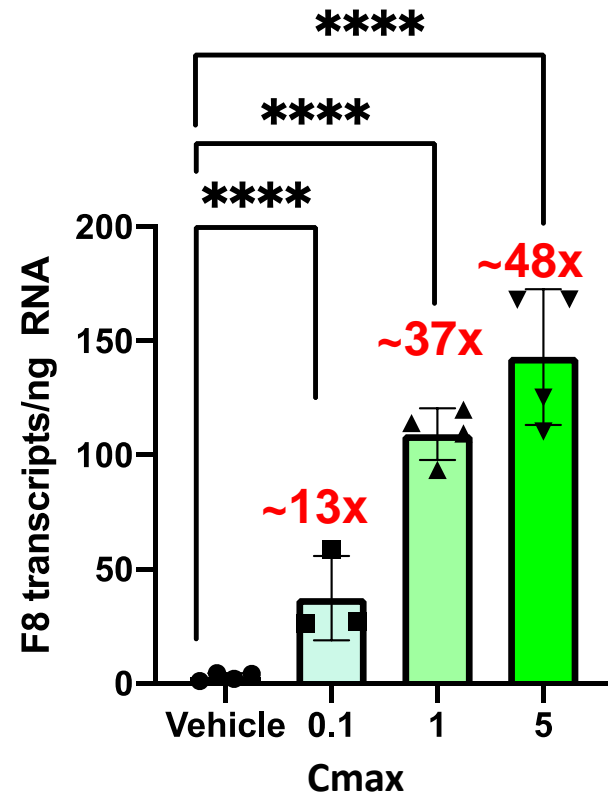
## Screening for Reactivation



## Epigenetic Modifier Screen



# HDACi reverses drug-induced ROCTAVIAN silencing in vitro



377 ng/mL = 1x Cmax

- At all doses tested, no toxicity was observed in human primary hepatocytes
- Romidepsin increased transgene expression without drug-induced silencing, though to a lesser degree

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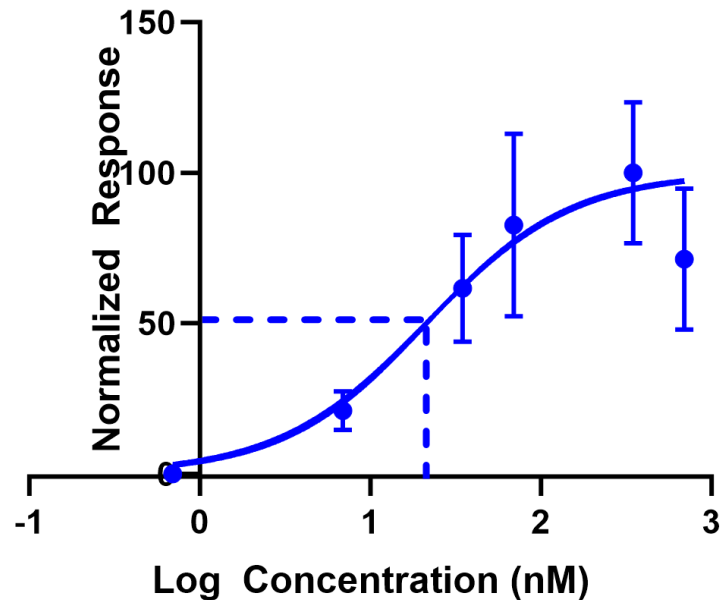
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# Modeling of HDACi Doses Needed to Reactivate Expression

- Modeling performed to predict exposures needed for a **3-fold increase** in expression in in-vivo experiments using:
  - human and preclinical PK data (literature)
  - in vitro primary human hepatocyte data (in-house)



Reactivation: <20% of clinical dose

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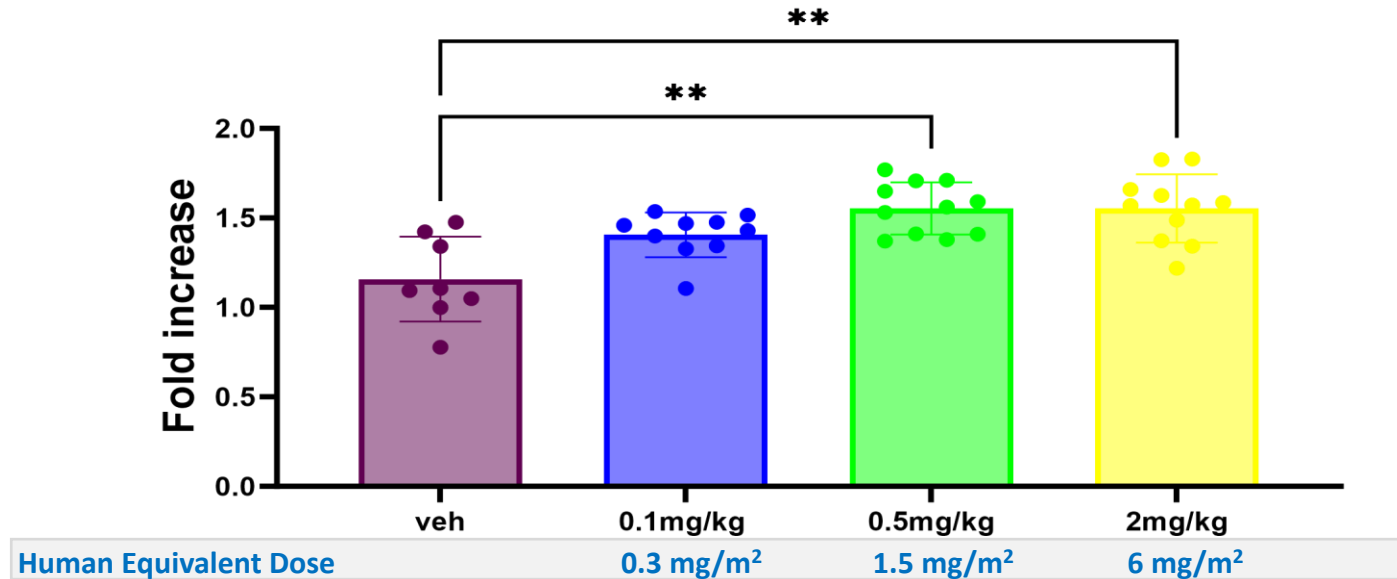
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# Pilot mouse study indicated Romidepsin can increase AAV expression

Potential model: Romidepsin treatment 4-weeks following in C57Bl/6 mice



- A single dose of HDACi moderately increased A1AT levels at doses  $\leq 2$  mg/kg (~40% of clinical dose)
  - No signs of liver toxicity measured by ALT and histopathology
  - No signs of myelosuppression (normal CBC and clinical chemistry)
- Mouse studies underway to evaluate potential reactivation of AAV5 following transgene expression decline

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# Variability of FVIII expression

Actionable strategy to improve FVIII secretion

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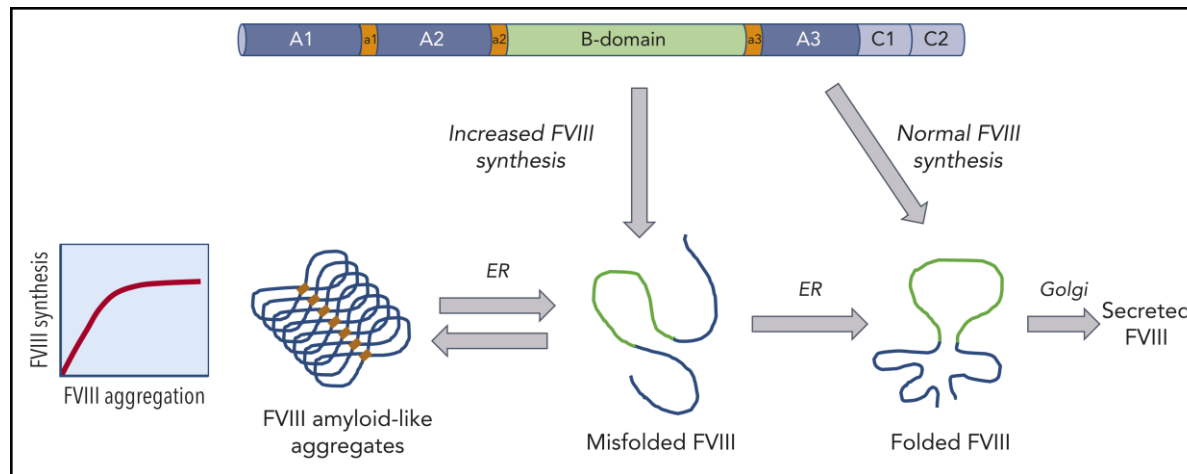
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# Evaluating actionable strategies to increase FVIII secretion

Increased BDD-FVIII synthesis can lead to misfolding and aggregation



Denise E. Sabatino, Clogging up the pipeline: factor VIII aggregates, Blood, 2020

- B-domain deleted FVIII-SQ protein is inefficiently folded and secreted from the ER<sup>1</sup>
- Studies have demonstrated reducing ER stress with antioxidants can increase FVIII secretion both in vivo and in vitro<sup>2</sup>
- Cells have a capacity to fold and secrete FVIII-SQ protein and the individual capacity could lead to inter-individual variability of response<sup>3</sup>

**Objective: Screen pharmacological chaperones to evaluate potential strategy to increase FVIII secretion**

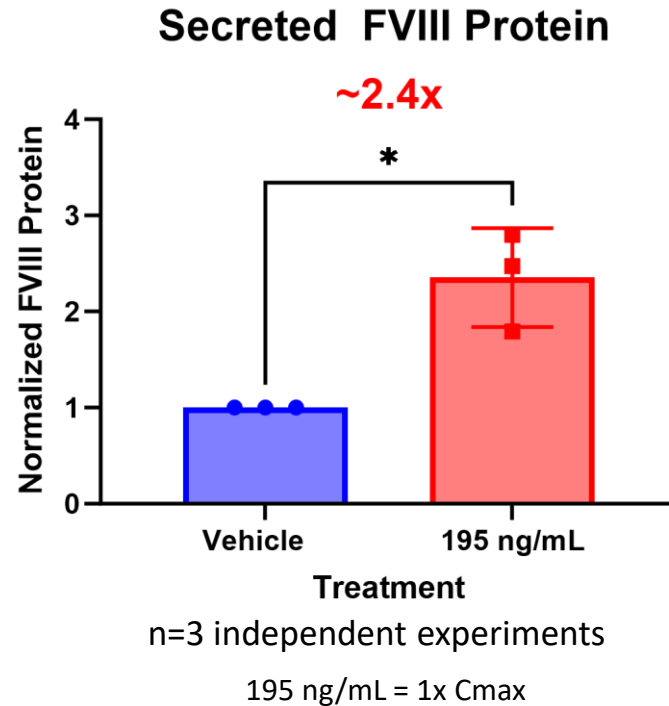
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# Phenylbutyrate significantly increases BDD-FVIII protein secretion



## Sodium phenylbutyrate (4-PBA)

- Small molecular chaperone
- Reduces UPR/ER stress<sup>1</sup>
- Approved in EU and US

**12 compounds were screened in HepG2 cells transduced with AAV5-hFVIII-SQ**

Basseri, Sana et al. "The chemical chaperone 4-phenylbutyrate inhibits adipogenesis by modulating the unfolded protein response." *Journal of lipid research* vol. 50,12 (2009): 2486-501. Xiao, Changting et al. "Sodium phenylbutyrate, a drug with known capacity to reduce endoplasmic reticulum stress, partially alleviates lipid-induced insulin resistance and beta-cell dysfunction in humans." *Diabetes* vol. 60,3 (2011): 918-24. Yam, Gary Hin-Fai et al. "Sodium 4-phenylbutyrate acts as a chemical chaperone on misfolded myocilin to rescue cells from endoplasmic reticulum stress and apoptosis." *Investigative ophthalmology & visual science* vol. 48,4 (2007): 1683-90.

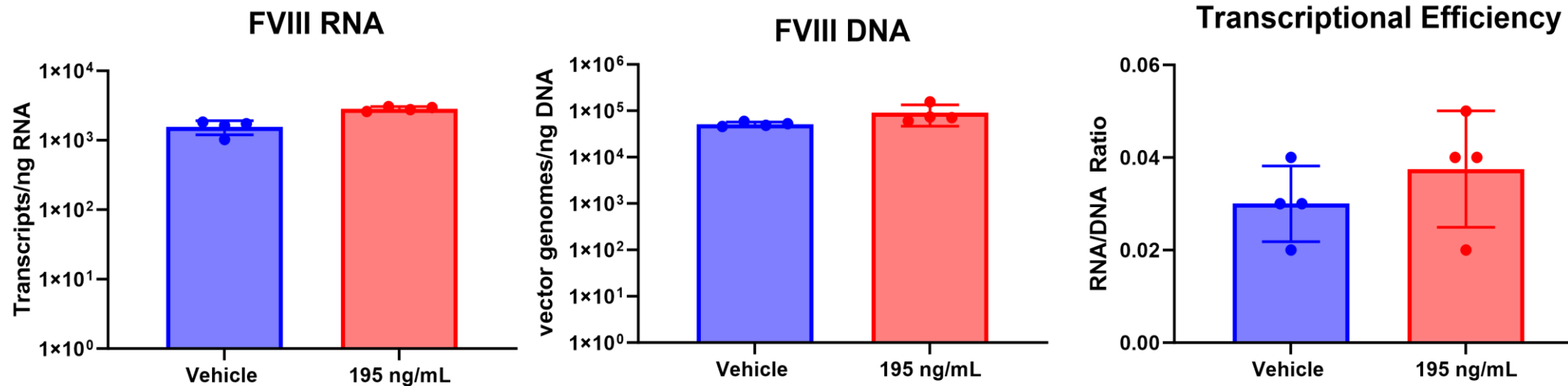
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# Phenylbutyrate has no effect on transgene transcriptional efficiency



195 ng/mL = 1x Cmax

## Sodium phenylbutyrate had no effect on transgene expression in primary human hepatocytes

Basseri, Sana et al. "The chemical chaperone 4-phenylbutyrate inhibits adipogenesis by modulating the unfolded protein response." *Journal of lipid research* vol. 50,12 (2009): 2486-501. Xiao, Changting et al. "Sodium phenylbutyrate, a drug with known capacity to reduce endoplasmic reticulum stress, partially alleviates lipid-induced insulin resistance and beta-cell dysfunction in humans." *Diabetes* vol. 60,3 (2011): 918-24. Yam, Gary Hin-Fai et al. "Sodium 4-phenylbutyrate acts as a chemical chaperone on misfolded myocilin to rescue cells from endoplasmic reticulum stress and apoptosis." *Investigative ophthalmology & visual science* vol. 48,4 (2007): 1683-90.

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# Key summaries

- Two actionable strategies were identified to potentially improve patient outcomes following AAV5-hFVIII-SQ treatment
  - Epigenetic modulators (HDACi) show potential for reactivating AAV transgene expression both in vitro and in vivo at low doses
  - The use of chemical chaperones may improve FVIII-SQ secretion
- Additional mouse studies are underway to evaluate if:
  - Romidepsin can reactivate transgene expression following decline with low and infrequent dosing regimen, and
  - Sodium phenylbutyrate can increase FVIII secretion in vivo

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# Acknowledgements

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