

**DMD**  
**Research Overview**  
**End Duchenne Tour**  
**2018**

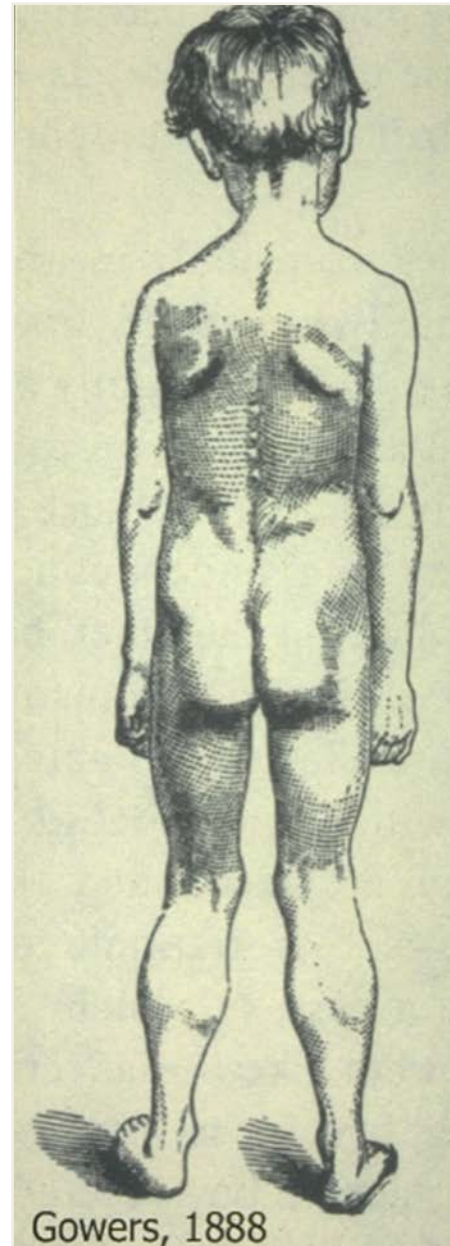
**Susan T. Iannaccone, MD**  
**Associate Director**  
**UTSW Wellstone MDC**

# Disclosures for STI

- **Research funding from PTC Therapeutics, Sarepta, FibroGen, Regeneron, Mallinkrodt, Capricor**
- **DSMB for Catabasis**
- **Ad Board for AveXis, Biogen, Sarepta**
- **Supported by NIH and MDA funding**
- **Thanks to Pat Furlong and Amanda Wilkison for slides, Eugenio Mercuri for WMS update**



**Early descriptions,  
19th century**



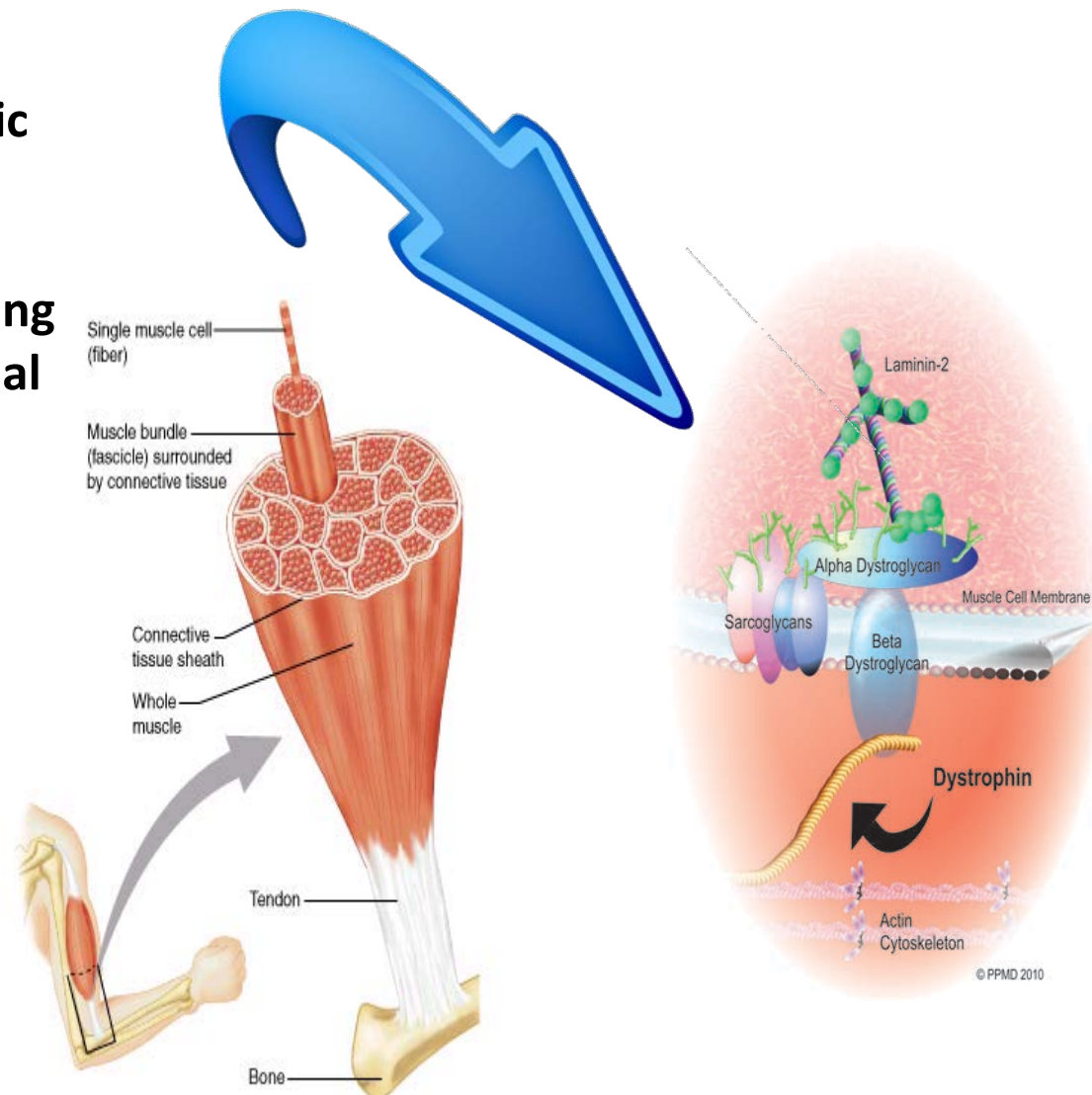
**Gowers, 1888**

# Duchenne/Becker MD

- **Incidence: 1-3 in 10,000 male births**
- **Carrier frequency: 1 in 2000**
- **New mutations: 30%**
- **Mutation rate: 1 in 30,000**
- **CK >100X nl**

# Starting at the Beginning

Due to a genetic mutation, the dystrophin protein is missing or not functional in Duchenne



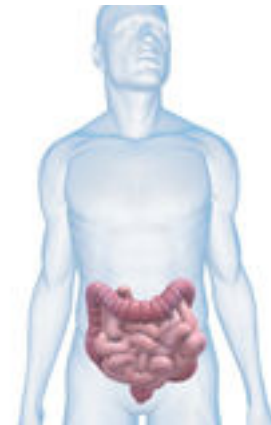
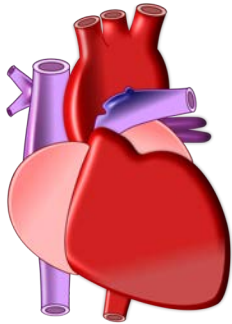
# Diagnosis of DMD

- **Clinical phenotype**
- **CK**
- **DNA**
  - **Deletion/duplication (up to 70%)**
  - **Sequencing**
- **NBS**

# DMD: Multisystem Disease

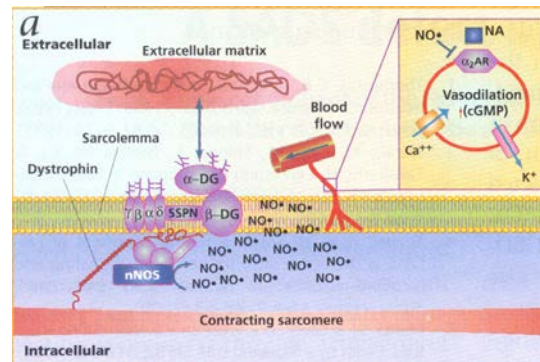
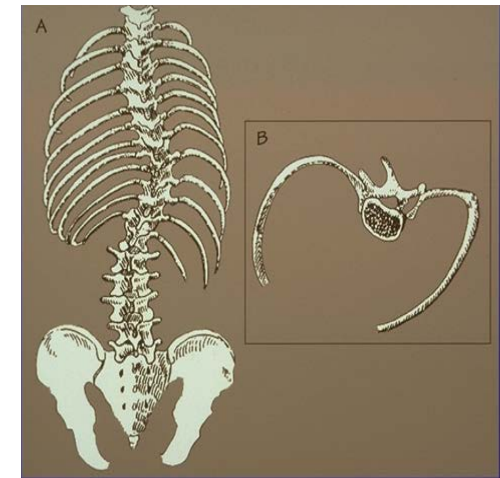


- **Skeletal myopathy**
- **Encephalopathy**
  - Behavior disorder
  - Cognitive deficit
  - Learning differences
- **Cardiomyopathy**
- **Smooth muscle**
  - Vessels
  - GI tract



# DMD: Complications

- **Orthopedic**
  - Contractures
  - Scoliosis
  - Chest wall deformity
- **Pulmonary**
  - Restrictive lung disease
  - Obstructive sleep apnea
- **Pain**
  - With exercise
  - With immobility





# **DMD: Multisystem Disease and Complications**

- **Multidisciplinary clinic**
  - One stop shopping
  - Specialists with expertise in DMD
  - Team approach
- **Challenges**
  - Cost/reimbursement
  - Space
  - Other commitments for providers

**Neuromuscular and skeletal management**

<b>Tools</b> Creatine kinase Genetic testing Muscle biopsy	<b>Interventions</b> Genetic counselling Family support
---	---

<b>Assessments</b> ROM Strength Posture Function Alignment Gait	<b>Interventions</b> Stretching Positioning Splinting Orthoses Submaximum exercise/activity Seating Standing devices Adaptive equipment Assistive technology Strollers/scooters Manual/motorised wheelchairs
---	---

<b>Assessments</b> Clinical evaluation Strength Function ROM	<b>Considerations</b> Age of patient Stage of disease Risk factors for side-effects Available GCs Choice of regimen Side-effect monitoring and prophylaxis Dose alteration
--	---

<b>Tools</b> Assessment of ROM Spinal assessment Spinal radiograph Bone age (left wrist and hand radiograph) Bone densitometry	<b>Interventions</b> Tendon surgery Posterior spinal fusion
---	---

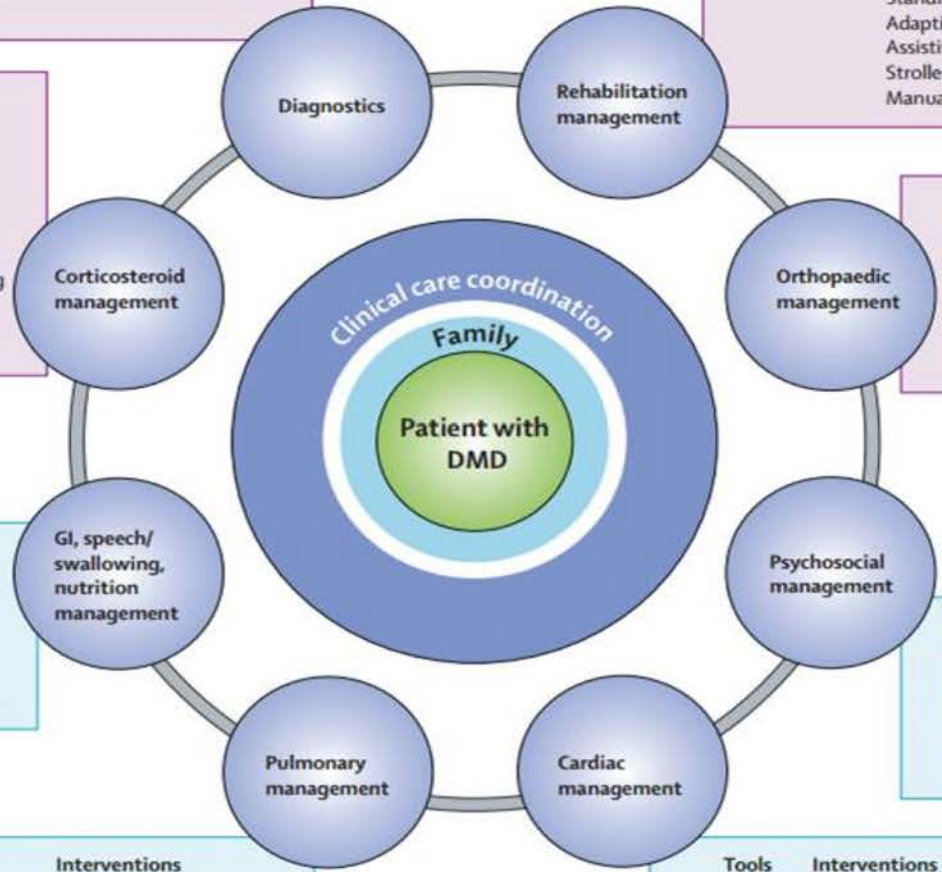
**Management of other complications**

<b>Tools</b> Upper and lower GI investigations Anthropometry	<b>Interventions</b> Diet control and supplementation Gastrostomy Pharmacological management of gastric reflux and constipation
--	--

<b>Assessments</b> Coping Neurocognitive Speech and language Autism Social work	<b>Interventions</b> Psychotherapy Pharmacological Social Educational Supportive care
--	--

<b>Tools</b> Spirometry Pulse oximetry Capnography PCF, MIP/MEP, ABG	<b>Interventions</b> Volume recruitment Ventilators/interfaces Tracheostomy tubes Mechanical insufflator/exsufflator
--	--

<b>Tools</b> ECG Echo Holter	<b>Interventions</b> ACE inhibitors β blockers Other heart failure medication
---------------------------------------	--



**Clinical care coordination**

**Family**

**Patient with DMD**

**Diagnostics**

**Rehabilitation management**

**Orthopaedic management**

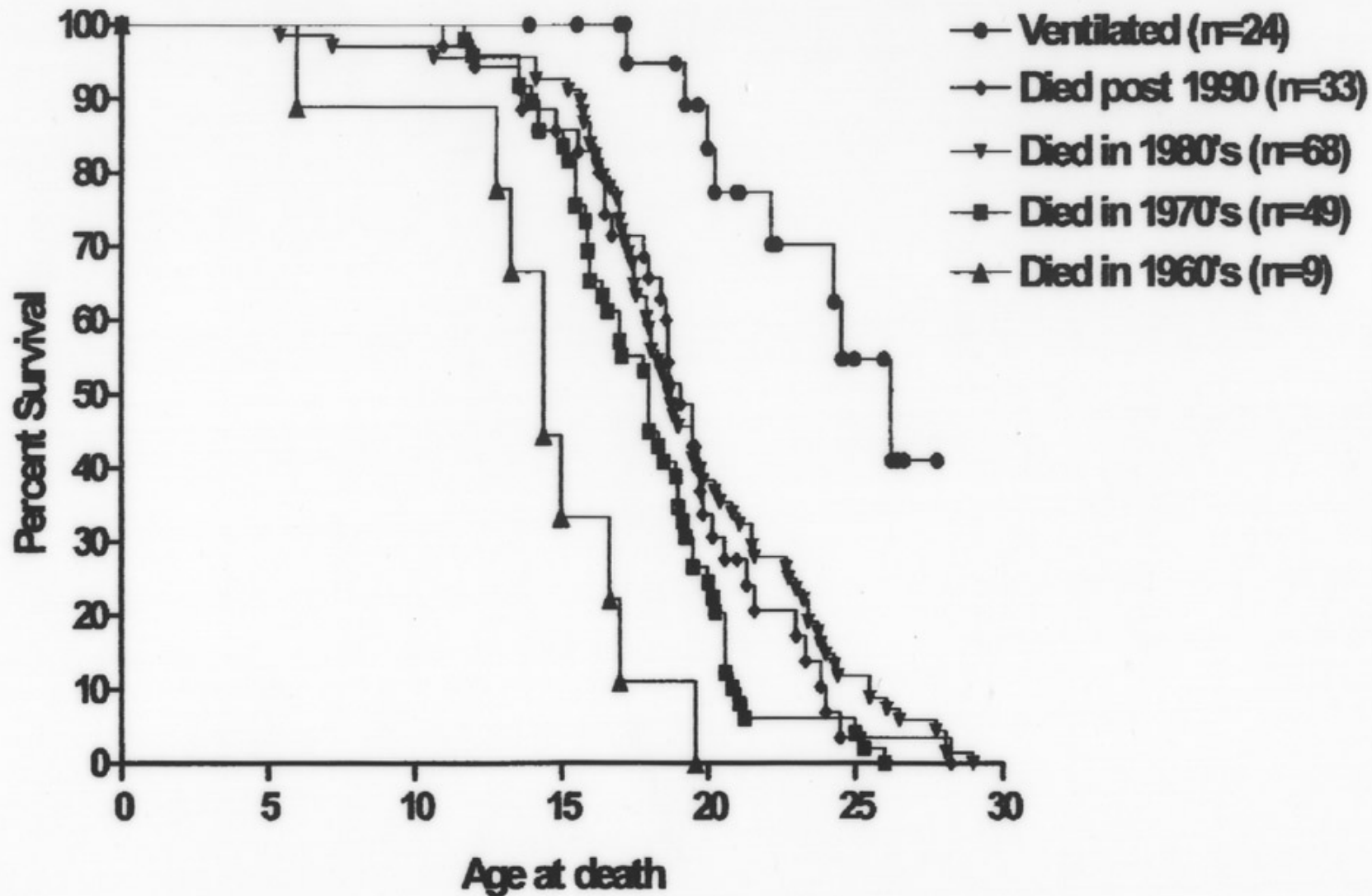
**Psychosocial management**

**Cardiac management**

**Pulmonary management**

**GI, speech/swallowing, nutrition management**

**Corticosteroid management**



From Eagle et al, Neuromusc Disorders, 2002

# Treatment of DMD

- **“Standard of Care:**
  - Multi disciplinary care
  - Expert subspecialty care
- **Steroids**
  - **Benefits**
    - Life expectancy
    - Lung function
    - Cardiac function
    - Scoliosis
  - **Prednisone vs Emflaza**
  - **Daily vs pulse/weekend dosing**

# Treatment of DMD

<b>Chronology</b>	
<b>1843</b>	<b>First clinical description</b>
<b>1982</b>	<b>Linkage to Xp21</b>
<b>1986</b>	<b>Dystrophin gene cloned and protein predicted, antibodies to protein</b>
<b>1988</b>	<b>CIDD first reports of prednisone efficacy</b>
<b>1990s</b> <b>2000s</b>	<b>Attempts to identify “mini-gene”</b> <b>Exon skipping</b> <b>Ataluren (gentamycin like mechanism)</b> <b>Drisapersen</b> <b>Eteplirsen now EXONDYS 51</b>
<b>2016</b>	<b>Gene editing “CRISPR/cas9”</b> <b>EMFLAZA</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>More ASOs</b> <b>More steroid-like drugs</b> <b>Other</b>

# What is a Clinical Trial?



- **A trial is an experiment, not a therapy**
- **Risks and benefits**
  - **Data Safety Monitoring Boards (DSMB)**
  - **May assess safety and data during the trial**
- **Important to pay attention to the informed consent/assent**

# Study Types

- **Phases of Clinical Trials**
  - **Pre-clinical**
    - Lab and animal studies
    - Non-human primates for safety
  - **Phase I:**
    - First in humans
    - Dosing
    - Small n
    - Assess safety
  - **Phase IIa:**
    - Assess dose requirements
    - IIa and IIb overlap.....

# Study Types

## – Phase IIb

- Assess efficacy; “Pivotal”
- Can combine a and b, testing both efficacy and toxicity
- Larger than phase I

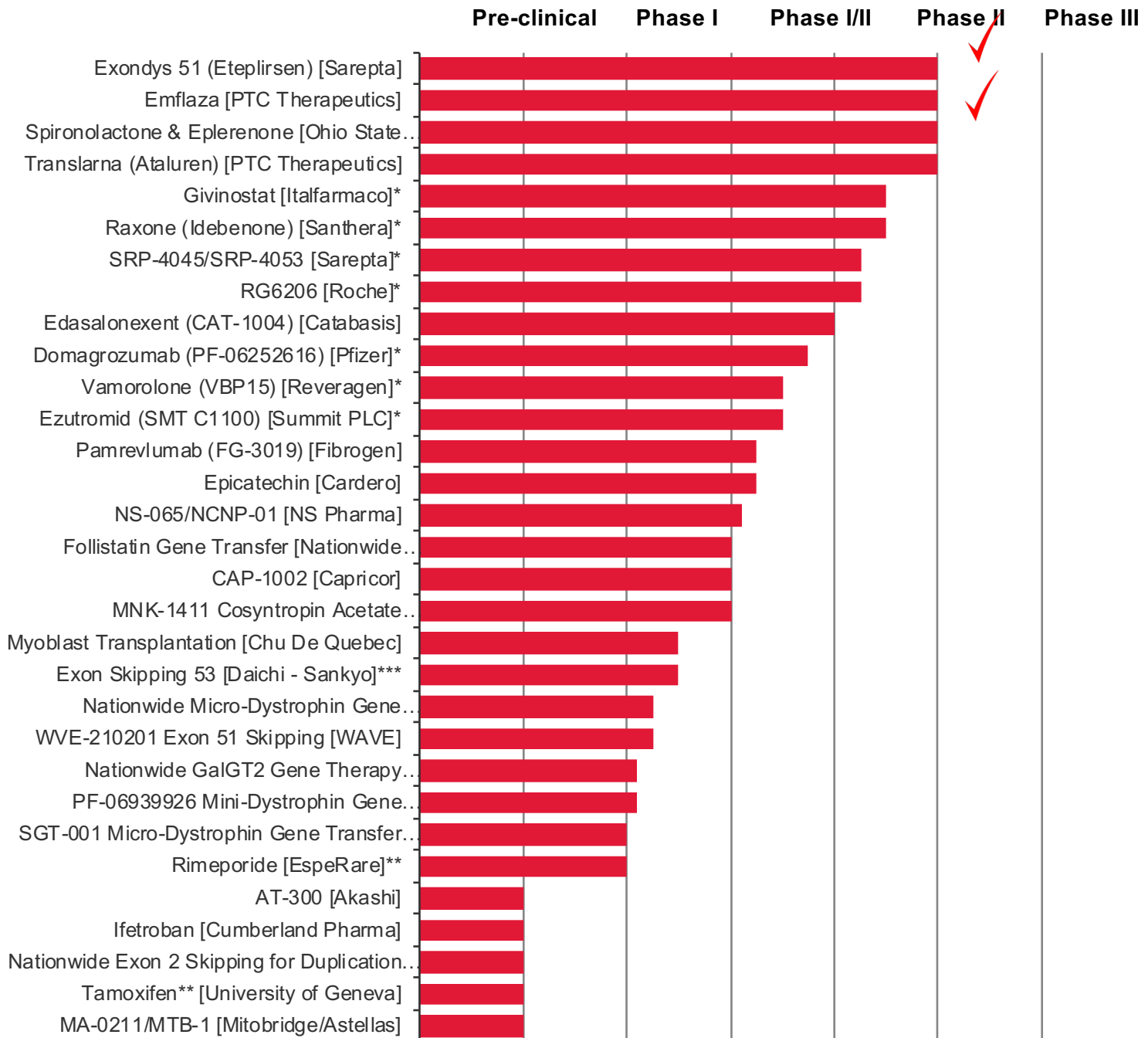
## – Phase III

- Classical randomized control placebo trial 1000-3000 subjects
  - In rare disease, this number can be much smaller

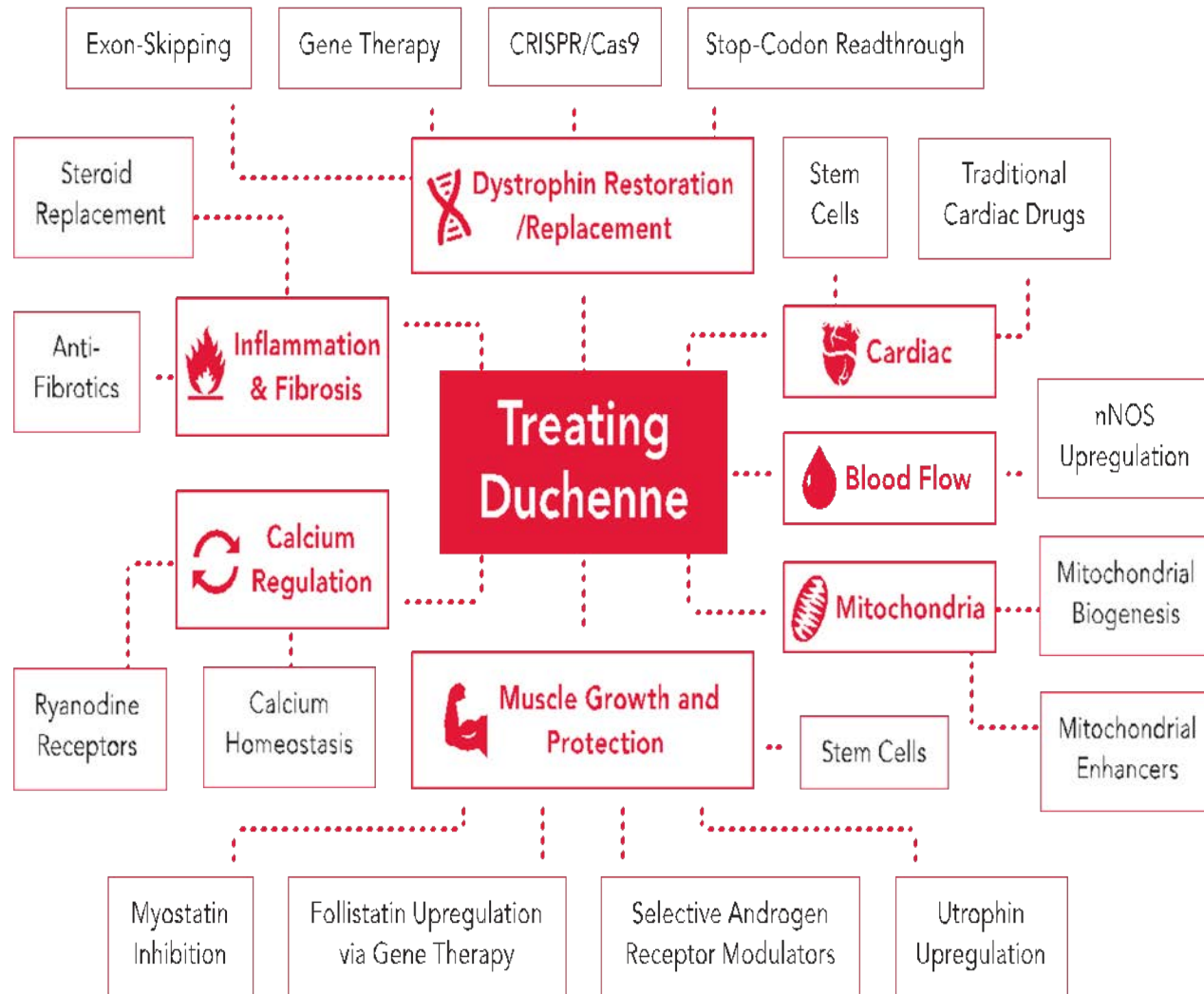
## – Phase IV

- Post-Marketing
- Monitor long term effects

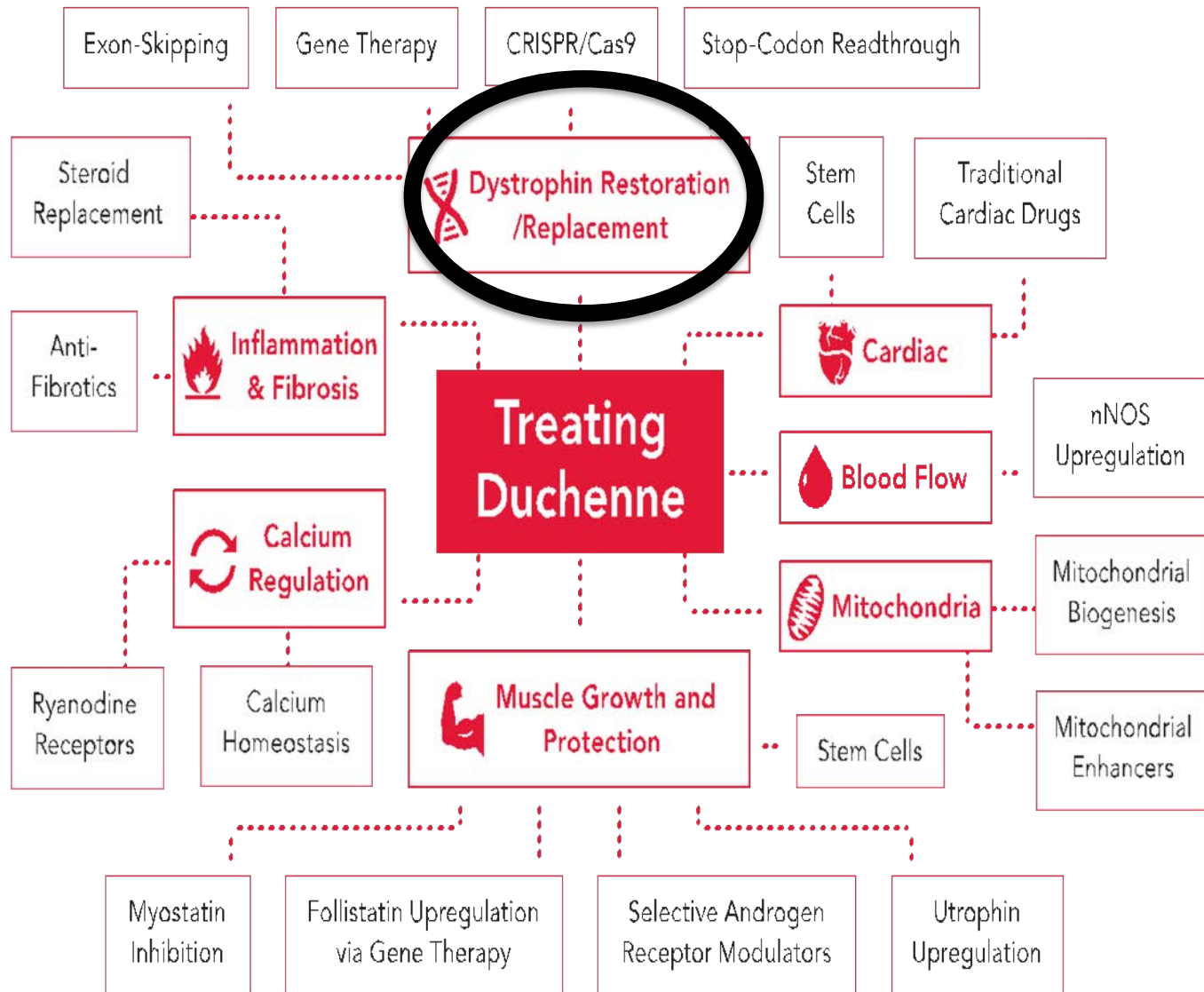




# Clinical Trials in Duchenne



# Clinical Trials in Duchenne



# ASO (AON)

- **Modified pieces of DNA/RNA**
- **Hybridize to target**
  - preRNA
  - Sequence complement
- **Exclude/include target exons**
  - convert “out of frame” to “in frame” deletions
  - “DMD” to “BMD”

# Dystrophin Restoration and Replacement

- Exon Skipping (skip over the missing/defective part of the gene)
  - Exon 45 and 53
  - (Golodirsen, Casimersen)
    - Essence (Sarepta)
      - 7-13yo, ambulatory, steroids >6mos
  - Exon 53
    - NS Pharma NS-065/NCNP-01
    - 4-9yo, ambulatory, steroids >6mos
- WAVE Life Sciences
  - Exon 51 WVE-210201
  - 5-18 years, recruiting



NS Pharma



# Dystrophin Restoration and Replacement

- **Stop Codon (nonsense) Read through**
  - **Translarna (PTC)**
    - **EMA: Approval**
    - **Phase 3 extension study now**
      - **>5, ambulatory, steroids >12 mos**



# Sarepta ASO/PMO/PPMO

- **Eteplirsen**
  - **EXONDYS 51**
- **SRP 4045**
- **SRP 4053**
- **New drug with better cardiac distribution**
- **PPMO 2019**
  - **SRP 5053**
  - **SRP 5051**

# Toxicity of ASO

- **Acute toxicities in vivo:**
  - Activation of the complement cascade
  - Inhibition of the clotting cascade
- **Sub-chronic toxicity**
  - Immune stimulation (splenomegaly, lymphoid hyperplasia and diffused multi-organ mixed mononuclear cell infiltrate)
- **Mild and self-limiting toxicities at high plasma ASO concentrations**
  - Thrombocytopenia
  - Increased LFT's
  - Hyperglycemia



# CHALLENGES

- **Toxicity**
- **Administration**
  - Route, frequency
- **Distribution**
  - Skeletal muscle
  - Cardiac muscle
  - CNS/BBB
- **Expression**
  - Amount
  - Duration

# Gene Therapies



- **AAV virus to deliver microdystrophins with the “business ends” of the dystrophin**
- **Studies will determine the most efficient microdystrophin**
- **Effect is thought to last ~10 years**
- **Single dose**
  - Working to avoid the formation of antibodies to the virus
  - Goal – re-dosing

# Gene Therapies

- **SGT-001**
  - Solid GT
  - Micro-dystrophin
  - 4-17 years
  - Recruiting
- **PF-06939926**
  - **Pfizer**
  - Mini-dystrophin
  - 5-12 years
  - recruiting



# Gene Therapy

- **Microdystrophin**
  - **Nationwide Children's Hospital**
  - **Exons 18-58**
  - **Muscle specific**
    - **Doesn't cross blood brain barrier**
  - **Ages**
    - **6 patients, 4 -7 years**
  - **4 patients have been dosed**



SAREPTA  
THERAPEUTICS



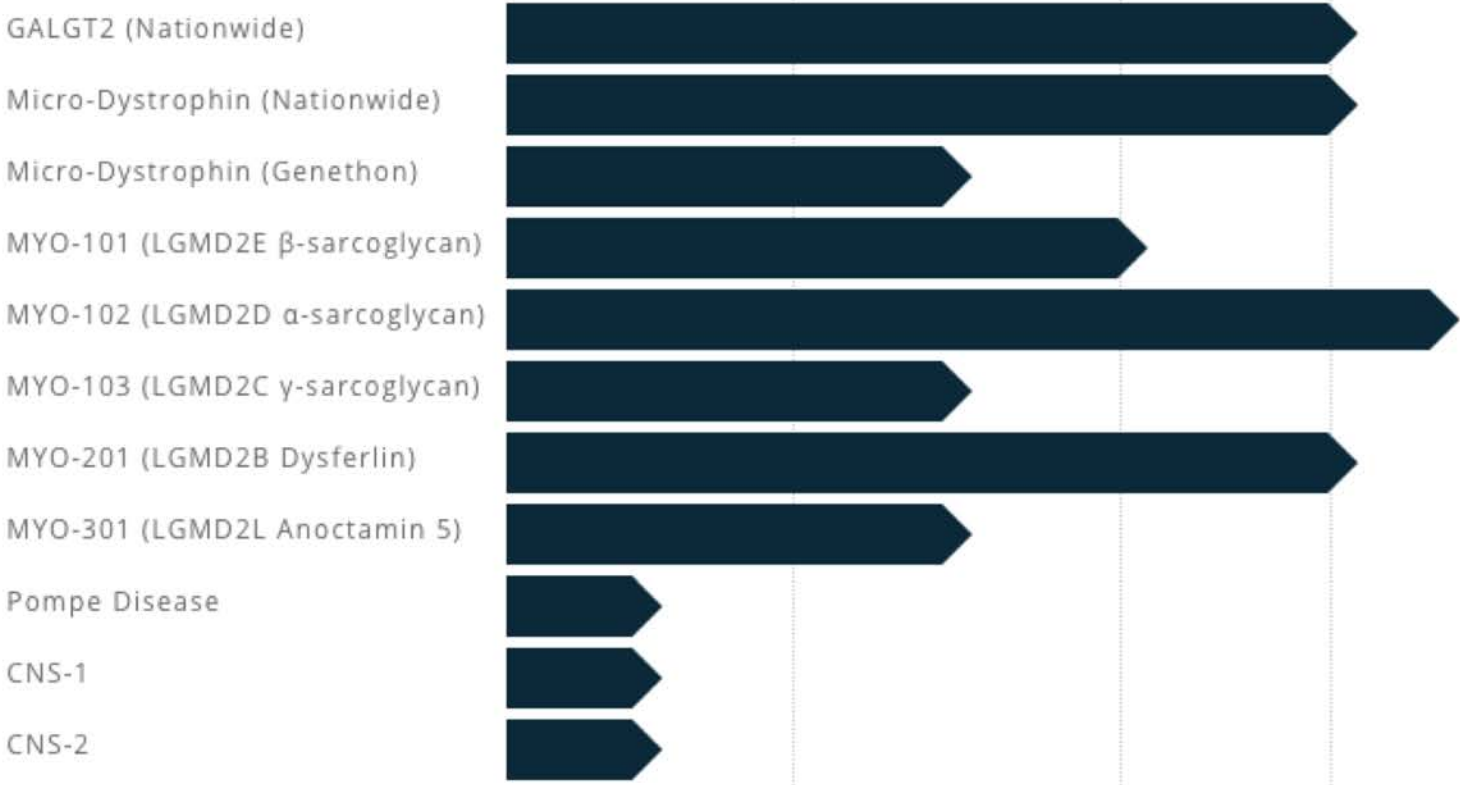
NATIONWIDE  
CHILDREN'S  
*When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.™*

# Gene Therapy

- **GALGT2 - rAAVrh74.MCK.GALGT2**
  - 4 years and older
  - recruiting
- **Exon 2 Duplication Strategy**
  - Preclinical
  - Nationwide Children's Hospital
  - Only study looking at duplications
  - Specific *only* to duplications in exon 2
  - Pre-clinical



## GENE THERAPY



## GENE EDITING



SAREPTA  
THERAPEUTICS

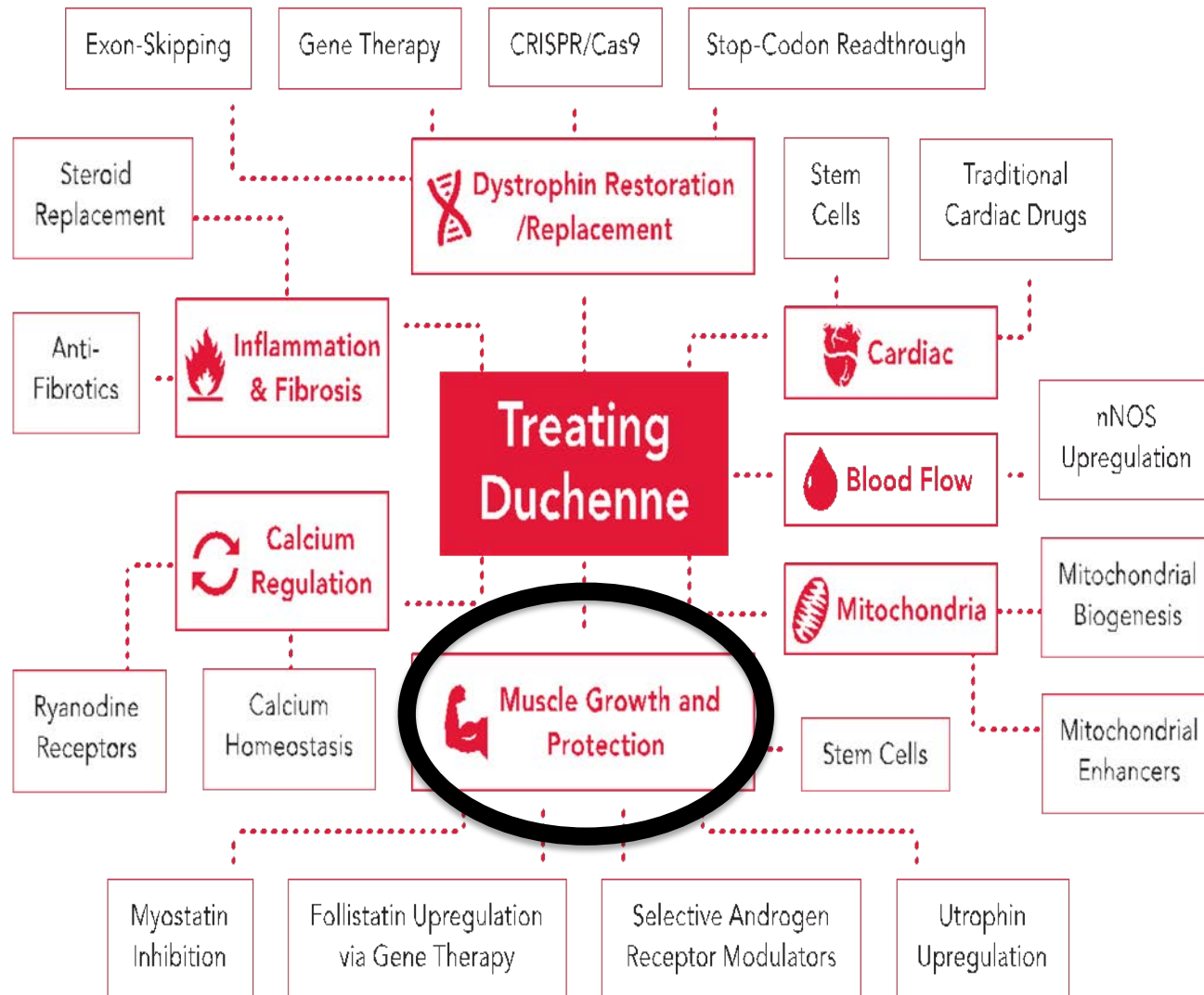
Internal

External Collaborations

\*Candidate received accelerated approval in the U.S., confirmatory studies required

\*\*Other exon targets in development: 43, 44, 50, and 55

# Clinical Trials in Duchenne



# Muscle Growth and Regeneration

## – Biglycan (TVN-102)

- Tivorsan Pharma
- Pre-clinical





# Muscle Growth and Regeneration

- **Myostatin Inhibition**

- **Domagrozumab**

- **Pfizer, Phase 2**
    - **STUDY TERMINATED**

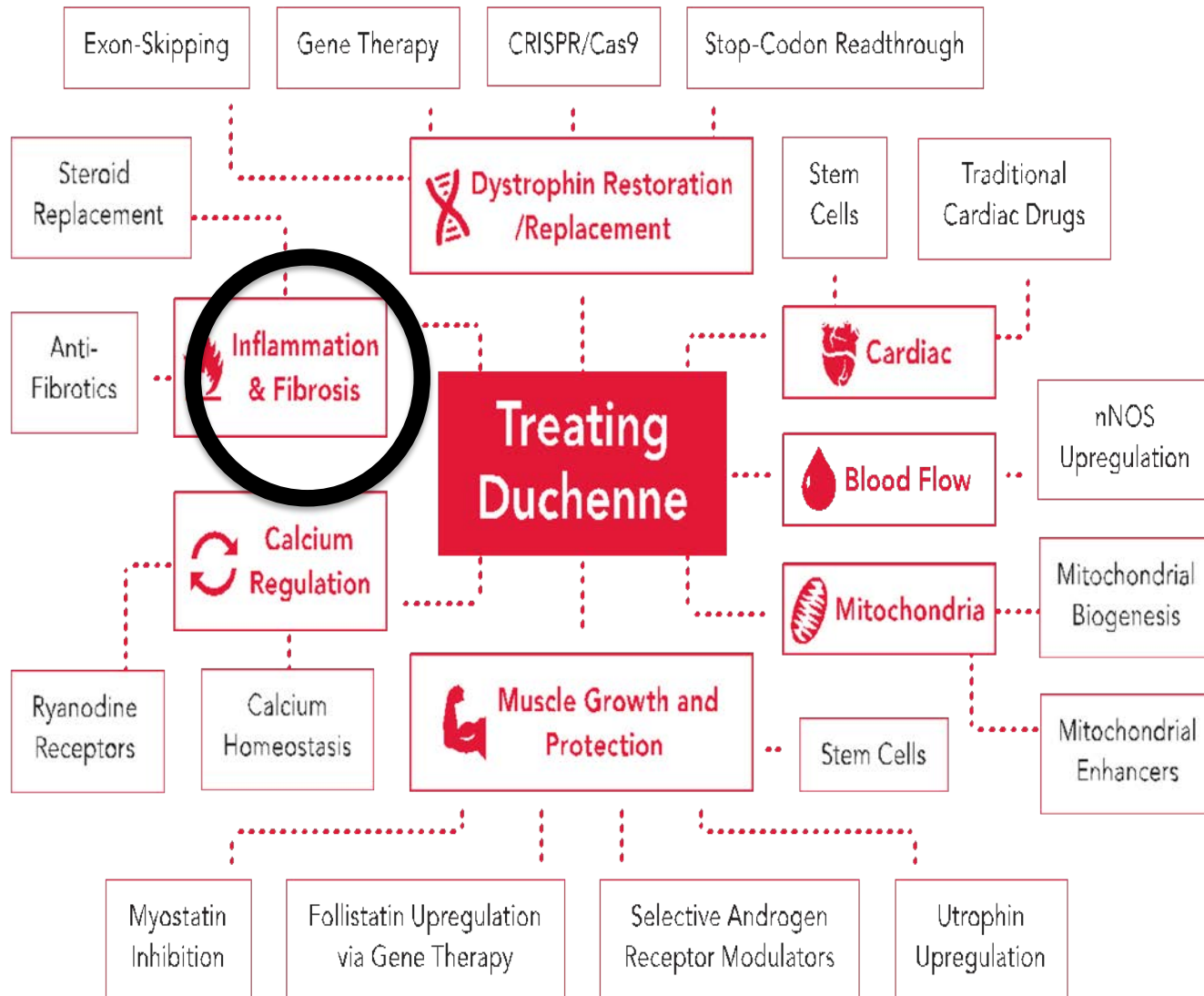


- **BMS 986089 (now Roche)**

- **BMS/Roche, Phase 1**
    - **6-11yo, ambulatory, steroids >6mos**



# Clinical Trials in Duchenne



# Anti-inflammatory

- **Mallinckrodt**
  - Pre-clinical
  - MK1411
- **Pamrevlumab**
  - FG-3019, Fibrogen, anti-fibrotic
  - Antibody to connective tissue growth factor
  - Phase 2
  - >12yo, non-ambulatory, steroids >6mos



**FIBROGEN**

# Anti-inflammatory

- **Givinostat**
  - Italfarmaco, HDAC inhibitor
  - Phase 3
  - >6yo, ambulatory, steroids >6mos



# Anti-inflammatory

- **Edasalonexent**

- **Catabasis**, Phase 2a;
- NFkB inhibitor, anti-fibrotic
- 4-7yo, ambulatory, steroid naïve

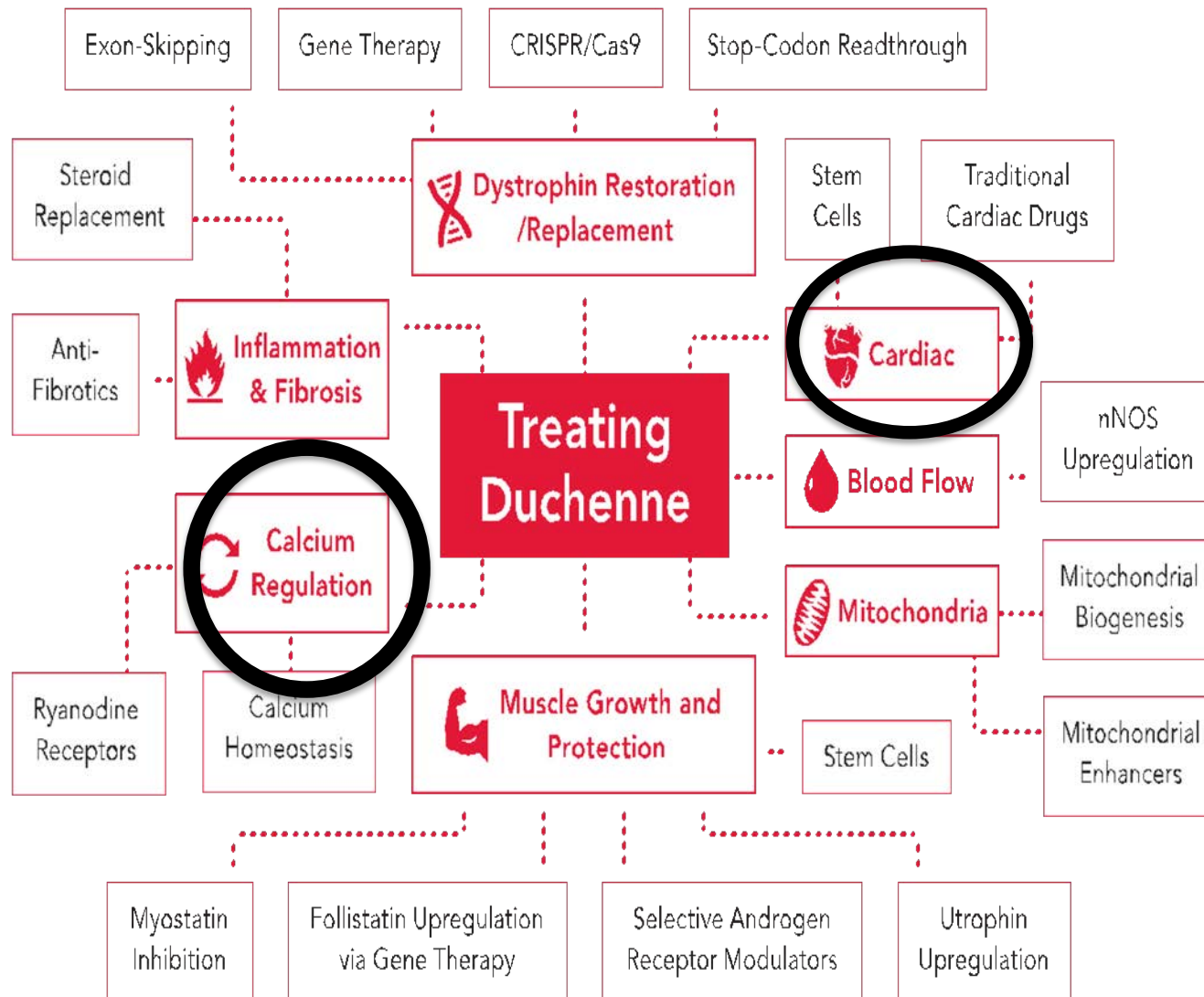


- **Vamorolone**

- ReveraGen, Phase 2;
- Steroid alternative
- 4-<6yo, ambulatory, steroid naïve



# Clinical Trials in Duchenne



# CELL BASED THERAPY

- **HOPE-2**
- **Capricor**
- **CAP-1002**
  - **Allogenic cardiosphere-derived cells (CDCs)**
  - **Release extracellular vesicles/exosomes/growth factors**
  - **Retained in lungs**

