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BIOSCIENCES

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# **AOC 1020: An Antibody Oligonucleotide Conjugate (AOC) in Development for the Treatment of FSHD**

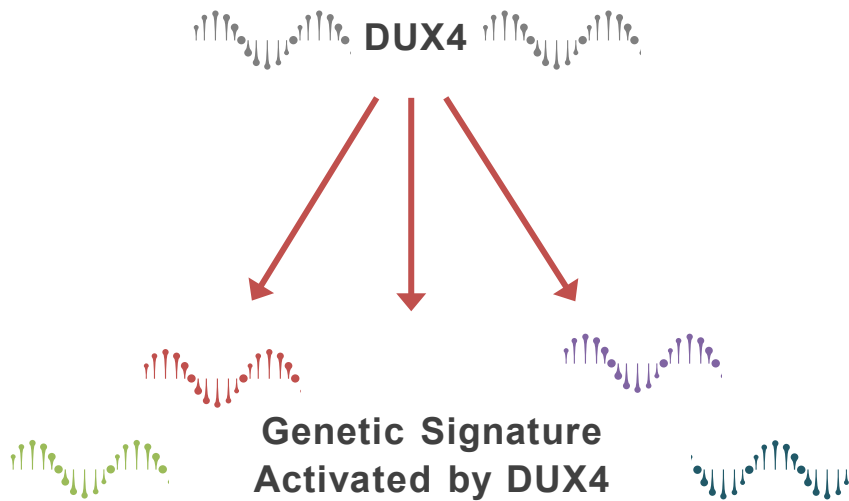
**Barbora Malecova**  
**Avidity Biosciences, Inc.**



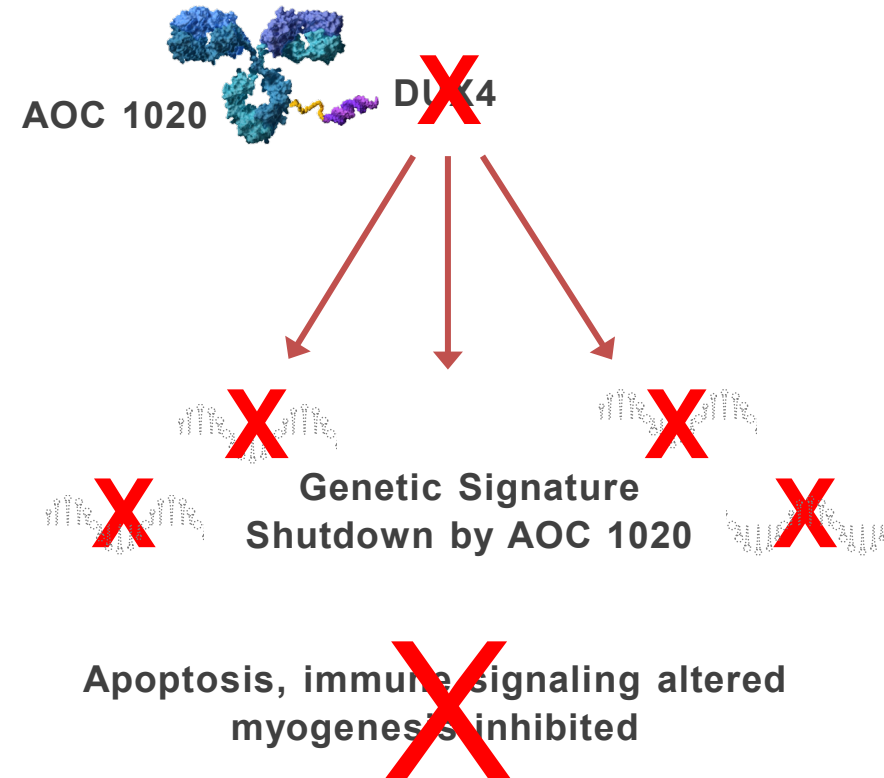
# FSHD is Caused by Aberrant Expression of DUX4 in Muscle

*DUX4 activates genes that are toxic to muscle cells*

## MECHANISM OF DISEASE<sup>1,2</sup>

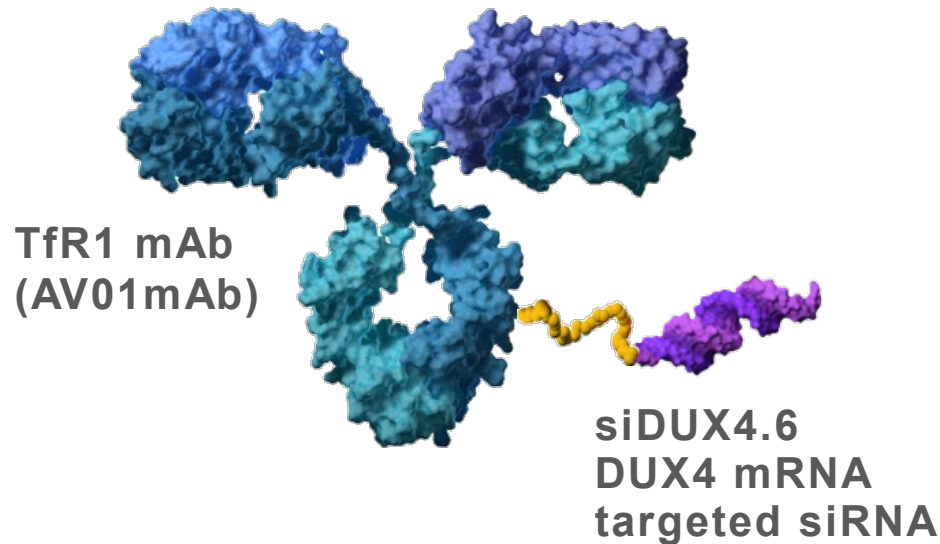


## THERAPEUTIC APPROACH<sup>3,4</sup>



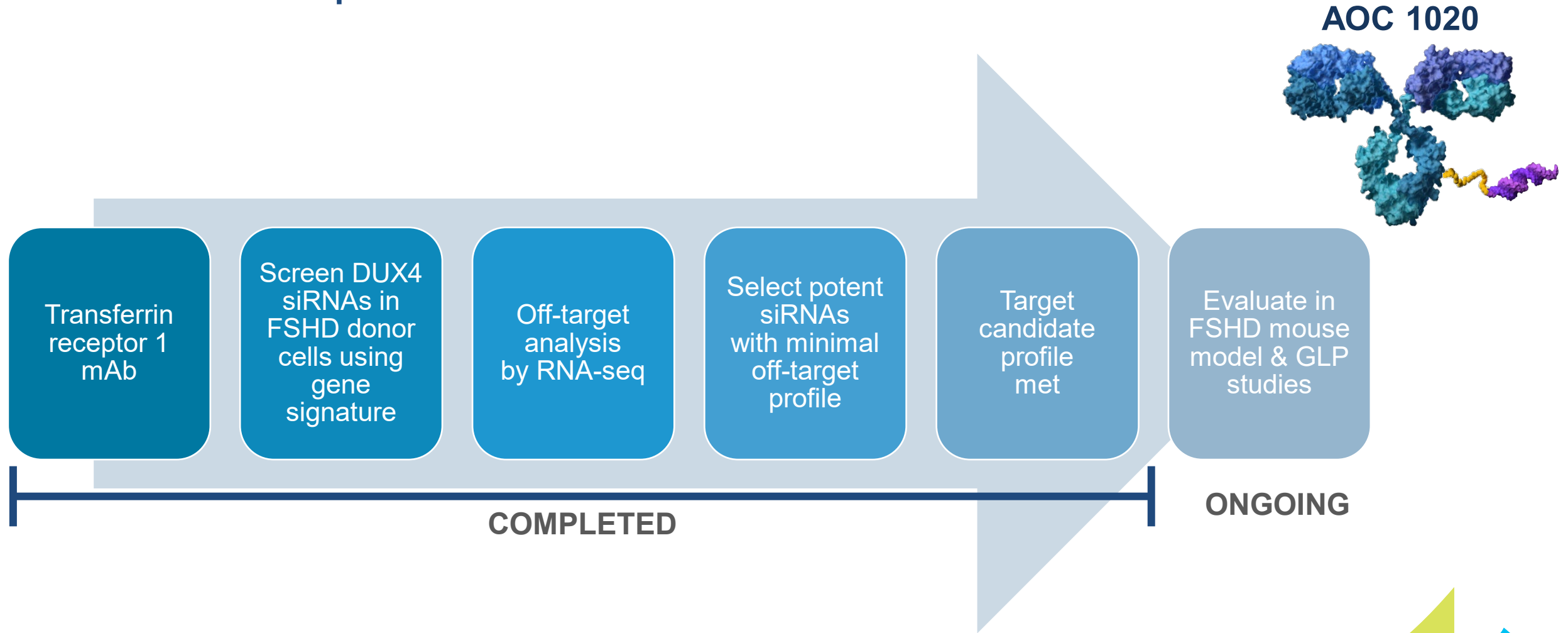
# Avidity's AOC 1020 Targets DUX4 mRNA for Degradation and Eliminates the Cause of FSHD

## AOC 1020 - ANTIBODY OLIGONUCLEOTIDE CONJUGATE



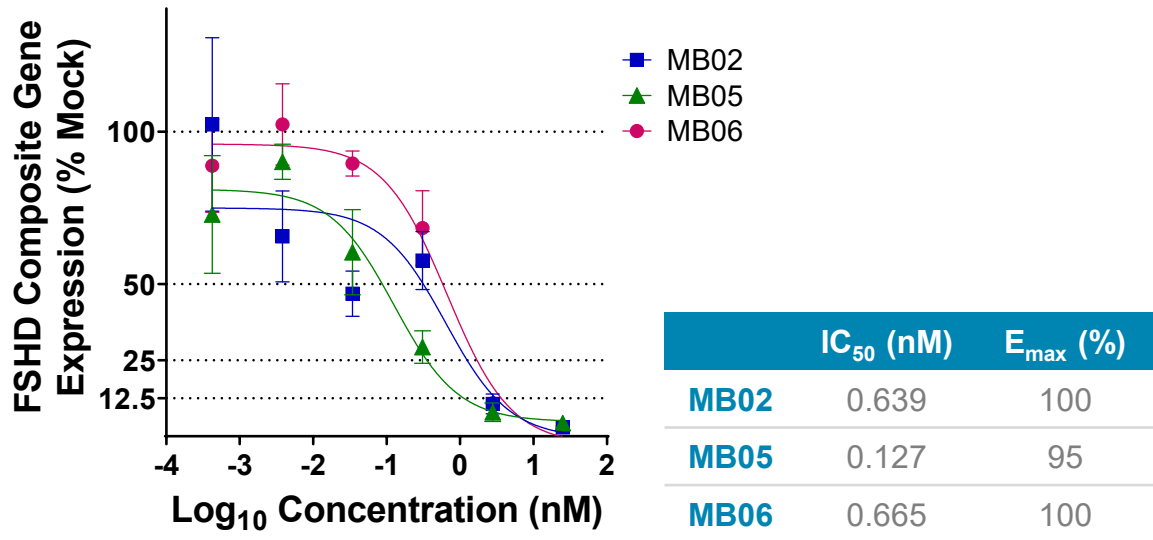
- AOCs represent a new class of therapeutics allowing delivery of oligonucleotides to target tissues
- Avidity's AOCs combine proven technologies of monoclonal antibodies and oligonucleotides
  - Specificity of targeting
  - Potency & precision of oligonucleotides
  - Targets tissues with potent and durable agents
- We optimized each of component of AOCs and engineered the molecules to maximize activity, durability, and safety
  - **TfR1 mAb:** monoclonal antibody directed to human transferrin receptor 1 (TfR1), optimized through engineering to be effector function null, epitope selection for optimal activity, highly efficient delivery to muscle
  - **Linker:** non-cleavable, enhanced for safety and durability, optimized ratio of oligonucleotides to antibodies
  - **siDUX4.6:** DUX4 mRNA targeting siRNA; engineered and stabilized to withstand lysosomal enzymes, selected for potency and specificity and modified to diminish off-target effects

# Development of AOC 1020 as a Potent and Specific Inhibitor of DUX4 Expression



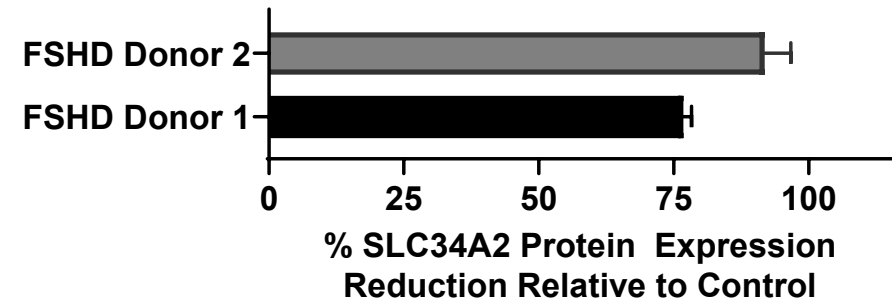
# Lead siRNA Sequence siDUX4.6 Inhibits DUX4-Regulated Genes in FSHD Patient-Derived Muscle Cells

Sub-Nanomolar Potency of the siDUX4.6 Sequence  
*In Vitro* in FSHD Primary Patient-Derived Myotubes



N=4; mean ± SEM

siDUX4.6 Sequence Inhibits SLC34A2 Protein Expression by >75% in FSHD Donor Myotubes

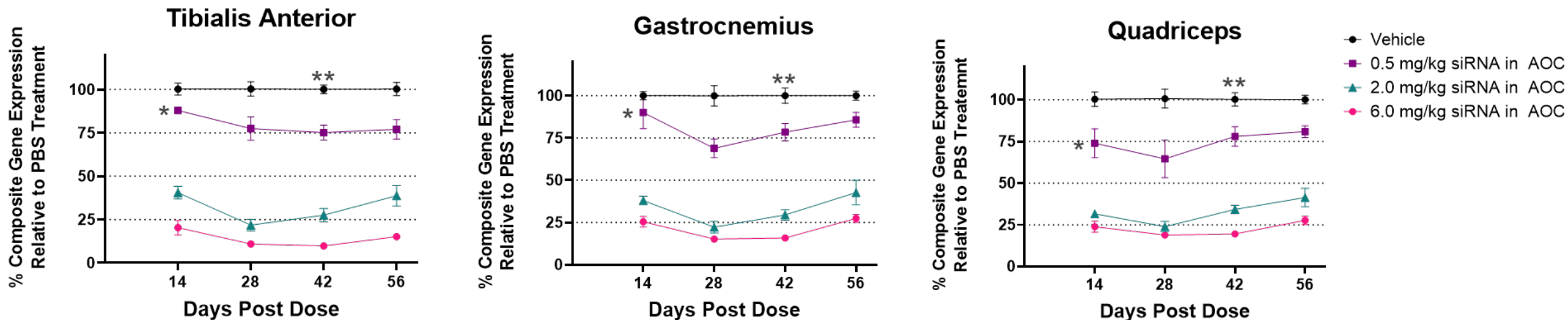


N=4; mean ± SEM

- Robust downregulation of DUX4-regulated genes was observed with the lead siDUX4.6 siRNAs in FSHD donor myotubes *in vitro*
- FSHD Composite is a mean expression of DUX4-regulated genes KHDC1L, LEUTX, MBD3L2, ZSCAN4

# siDUX4.6 Shows Potent Inhibition of DUX4-Regulated Genes in Transgenic Mouse Model of FSHD for 8 Weeks

*Dose-dependent inhibition of DUX4-regulated genes in skeletal muscles*

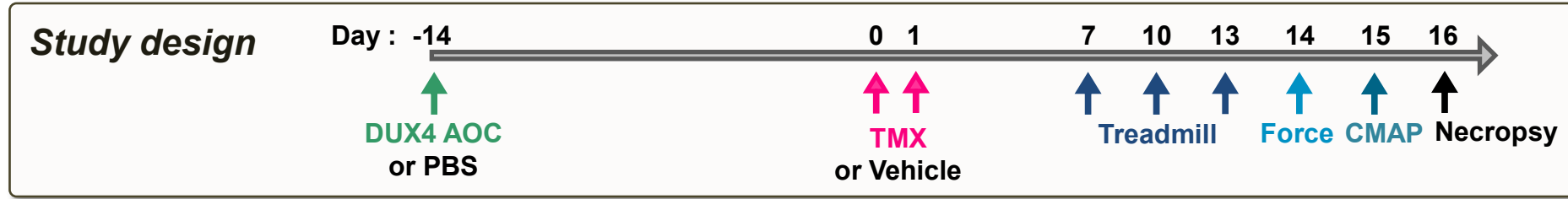


ACTA1-MCM; FLExDUX4 mouse model of FSHD  
N = 5 (\*N=3; \*\*N=4); mean  $\pm$  SEM

- The siRNA clinical candidate siDUX4.6 demonstrated activity *in vivo* towards the human DUX4 mRNA, measured by downregulation of DUX4-regulated mouse genes *Wfdc3*, *Ilvbl*, *Slc15a2*, *Sord*.
- Approximately a 75% reduction in DUX4 responsive genes was induced after a single systemic IV administration of 6 mg/kg of siRNA within the AOC (mTfR1-siDUX4.6)

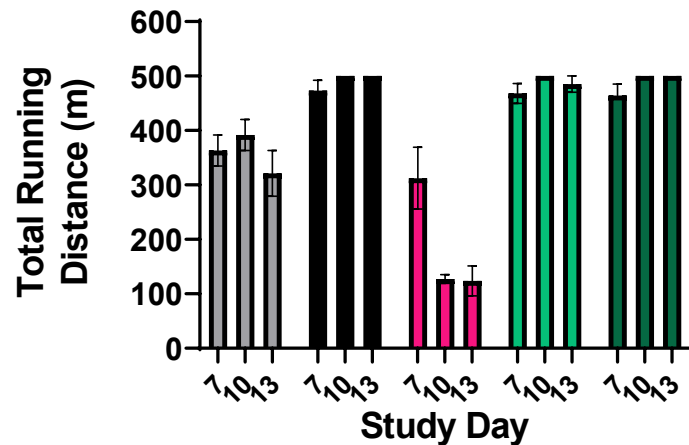


# Single Intravenous Treatment with DUX4 AOC Prevents Disease Phenotype Development in FSHD Mouse Model

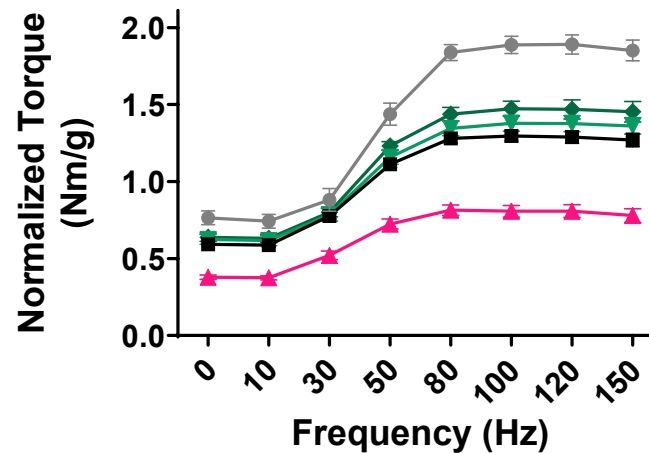


N = 9-12; males; mean ± SEM

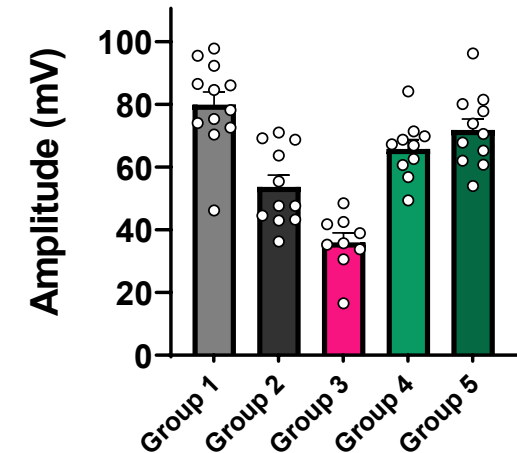
### Treadmill Running



### In Vivo Force



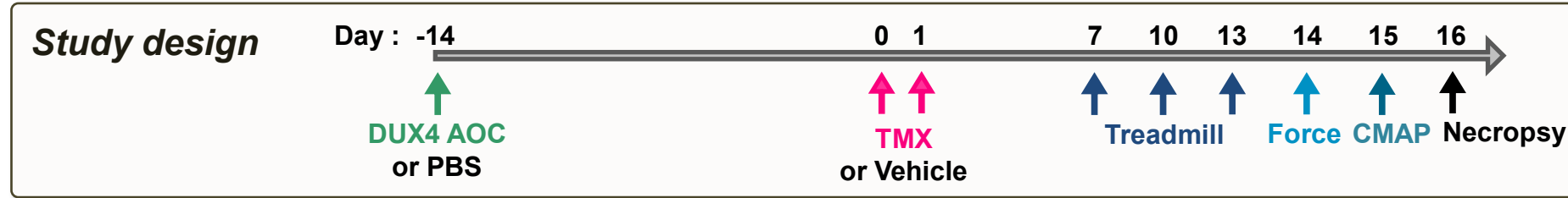
### Compound Muscle Action Potential



- █ 1: ACTA1-MCM, VEH, PBS
- █ 2: ACTA1-MCM; FLExDUX4, VEH, PBS
- █ 3: ACTA1-MCM; FLExDUX4, TMX, PBS
- █ 4: ACTA1-MCM; FLExDUX4, TMX, DUX4 AOC 2 mg/kg (siRNA)
- █ 5: ACTA1-MCM; FLExDUX4, TMX, DUX4 AOC 8 mg/kg (siRNA)

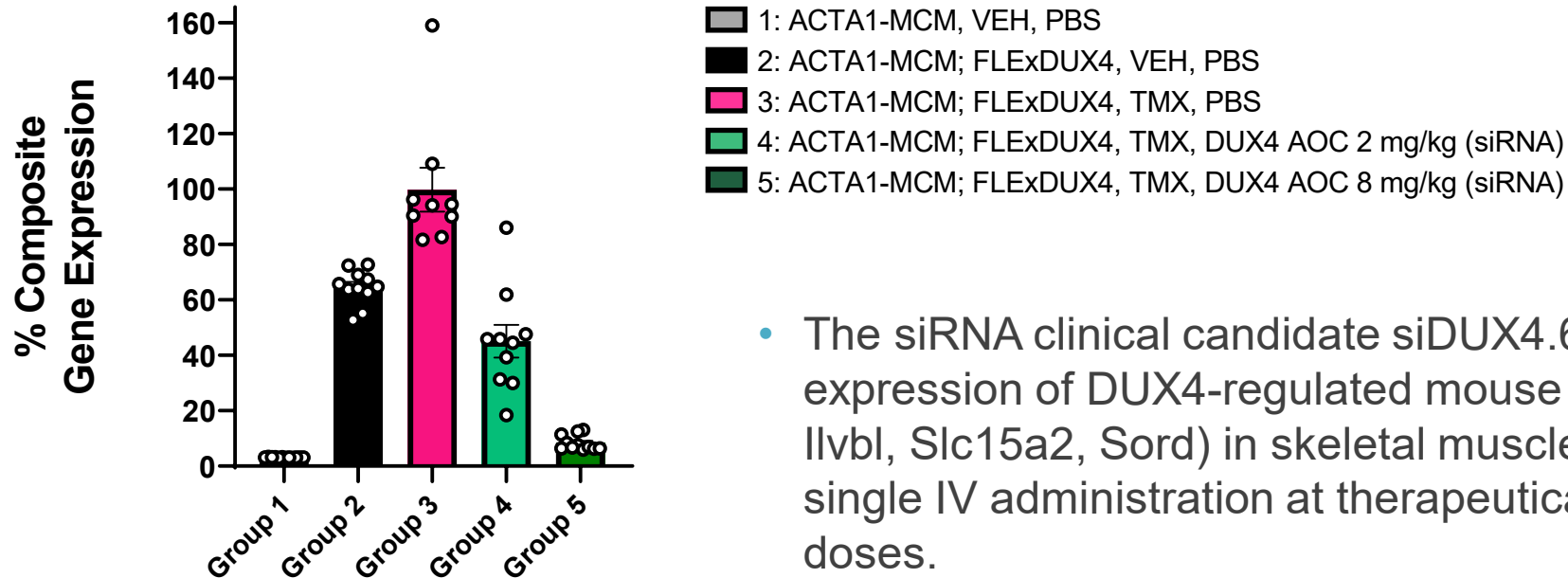


# Single Dose of DUX4 AOC Inhibits DUX4-Regulated Gene Expression in Muscle of Tamoxifen-Induced FSHD Mouse Model



N = 9-12; males;  
mean ± SEM

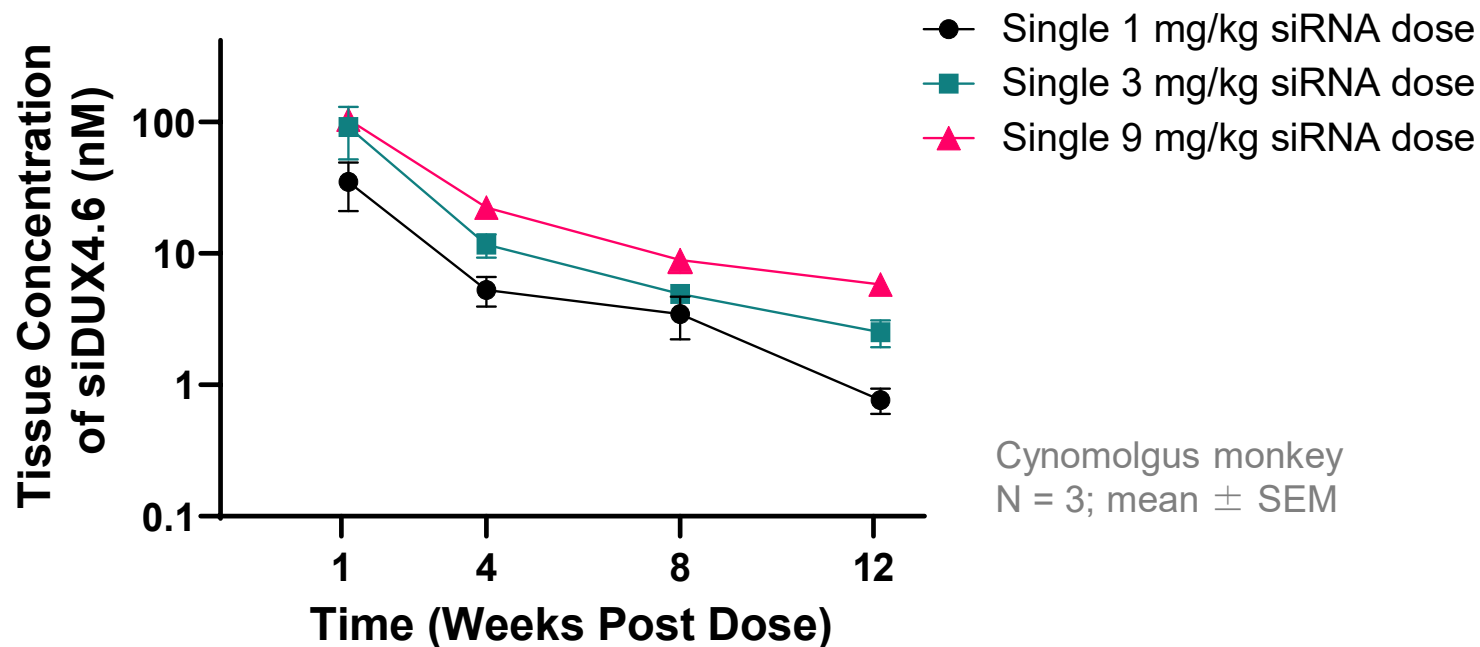
## Tibialis Anterior



- The siRNA clinical candidate siDUX4.6 robustly inhibits expression of DUX4-regulated mouse genes (*Wfdc3*, *Ilvbl*, *Slc15a2*, *Sord*) in skeletal muscle 1 month after single IV administration at therapeutically relevant doses.



# AOC 1020 PK Results in NHP Muscle Tissue Support an Infrequent Dosing Regimen for FSHD Patients



- AOC 1020 produced dose-dependent increase in siRNA tissue exposure in skeletal muscle tissues following single systemic IV doses
- The muscle tissue concentration for siDUX4.6 in NHP at therapeutically relevant doses is above IC50 values that we typically observed for other TfR1-based AOCs
- Based on our data, we anticipate this will allow for an infrequent dose schedule in the clinic

# AOC 1020 is On-Track to be in the Clinic by the End of 2022

- siDUX4.6:
  - Was selected as clinical candidate siRNA targeting DUX4 mRNA, having an activity across all tested 11 FSHD patient-derived muscle cell lines, with a sub-nanomolar potency *in vitro*
  - Demonstrates efficacy *in vitro* by downregulating a panel of known DUX4-regulated genes in FSHD patient-derived myotubes
  - Demonstrates a dose-dependent activity and long duration of action (8 weeks) after single systemic IV dose *in vivo* in FSHD mouse model expressing human DUX4
  - Prevents a muscle weakness development after 2 and 8 mg/kg (siRNA within AOC) single systemic IV dose in FSHD mouse model
  - Has minimal seed-mediated off-target profile in human muscle cells
- AOC 1020 is currently in GLP toxicology studies
- Avidity is planning to enter the clinic with AOC 1020 for treatment of FSHD by end of 2022



# Authors and Acknowledgements

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