



Cell Therapy Transplant for Hearing Loss

Auditory Neuron Progenitors (ANP1) (ReSonance™)

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Cell Cure Neurosciences

- An Israel-based subsidiary of Lineage Cell Therapeutics (LCTX), responsible for research, process development, and GMP production
- Development and production of unique allogeneic cell therapies from pluripotent stem cells
 - Versatile expansion and culturing systems of pluripotent stem cells
 - Process development, 2D, and 3D differentiation, for multiple lineages
 - Product release and qualification for clinical use (ready to inject)
- Infrastructure includes R&D, Analytical Labs and GMP production facilities
- Highly trained and skilled personnel (55)
- Validation
 - 2 clinical stage products, 3 pipeline products
 - \$670M global alliance with Roche/Genentech for lead program ("OpRegen"; an RPE cell transplant)



Requirements for a Successful Cell Therapy



Control (Safety) & Reproducibility

- Source line characterization, cell banking, versatile expansion systems
- Differentiation process development; culture conditions, optimization
- Analytical methods, in-process controls, release criteria

Lineage's Internal cGMP Facility

Multiple Clean Rooms for Parallel cGMP Production Runs; Staff of >50



Purity / Identity

- Clinically compatible post-production processing
- Analytical method development for process control and product release



Potency

- Functionality and performance testing, reflecting MOA
- Enhancements; genetic modification (optional), various expression systems

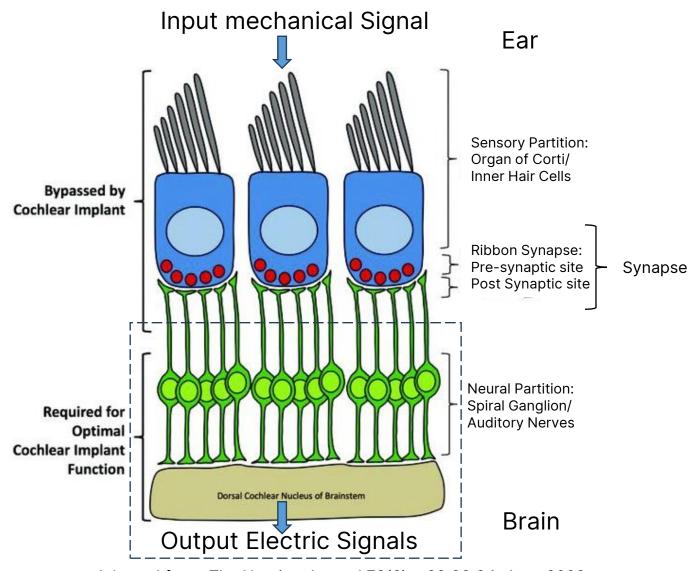


Scalability

- Scale-up modalities, substrates, harvesting protocols
- Clinical and commercial throughputs for drug process and product
- Commercially-attractive cost of goods

Why Target Sensory Neuron Replacement?

- Auditory Neuropathy Spectrum
 Disorder (ANSD) is a variety of
 diseases linked by the common trait of
 dysfunctional auditory nerve function
- ANSD could be treated by a <u>single cell</u>
 <u>therapy</u> by replacing damaged cells
 with healthy neuronal cells irrelevant of
 the pathology.
- Cell therapy may solve conditions where cochlear implants are nonfunctional due to neural deficiency

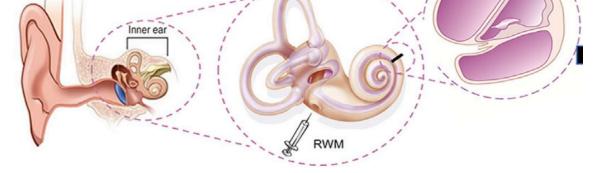


Adapted from: The Hearing Journal 73(6):p 32,33,34, June 2020.

ANP1 Cell Therapy Product

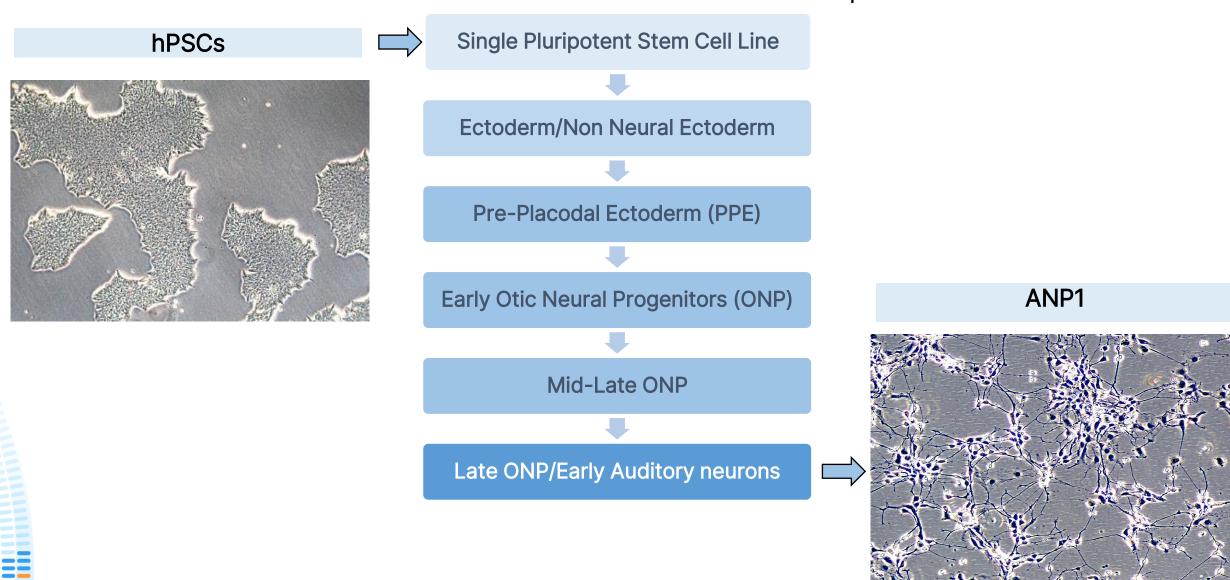
- ANP1 Transplantable otic neural progenitors (ONP) derived from human pluripotent stem cells
 - Manufactured via a directed differentiation process that generates pure population of cells
 - Proprietary and protected manufacturing process based on in-house expertise, accompanied by inprocess controls and batch release criteria using internally-developed analytical assays
- Transplanted ANP1 cells are permissible to further maturation into auditory neurons (AN)
- ANP1 is cryopreserved allogeneic off-the-shelf product, at clinical doses, ready to be thawed at clinical sites and injected into a patient's cochlea
- Potential ANP1 indications:

 Auditory Neuropathy Spectrum Disorders
 and/or in combination with cochlear implants.

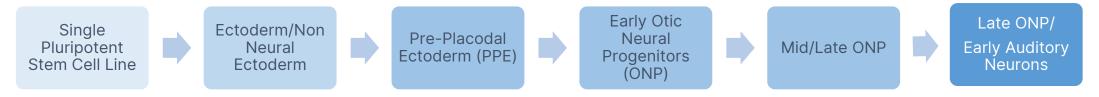


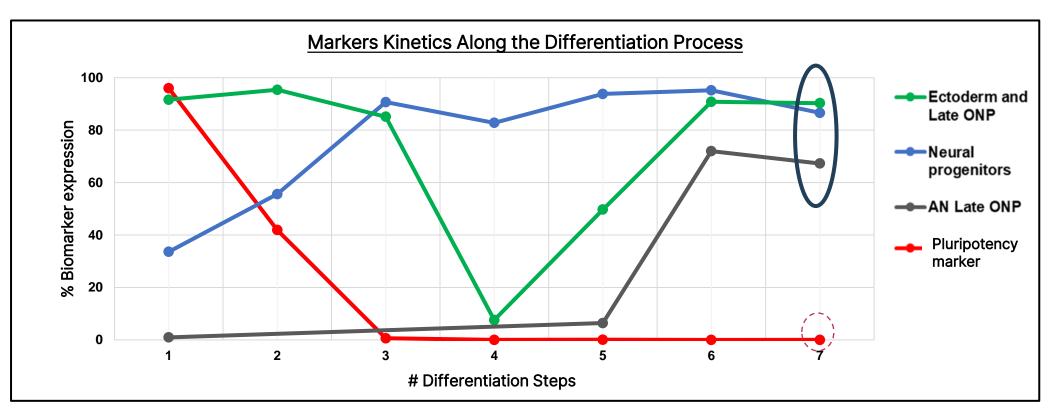
ANP1 Directed Differentiation Manufacturing Process

ANP1 differentiation follows natural otic development



Monitoring of ANP1 Differentiation Using In-Process Controls

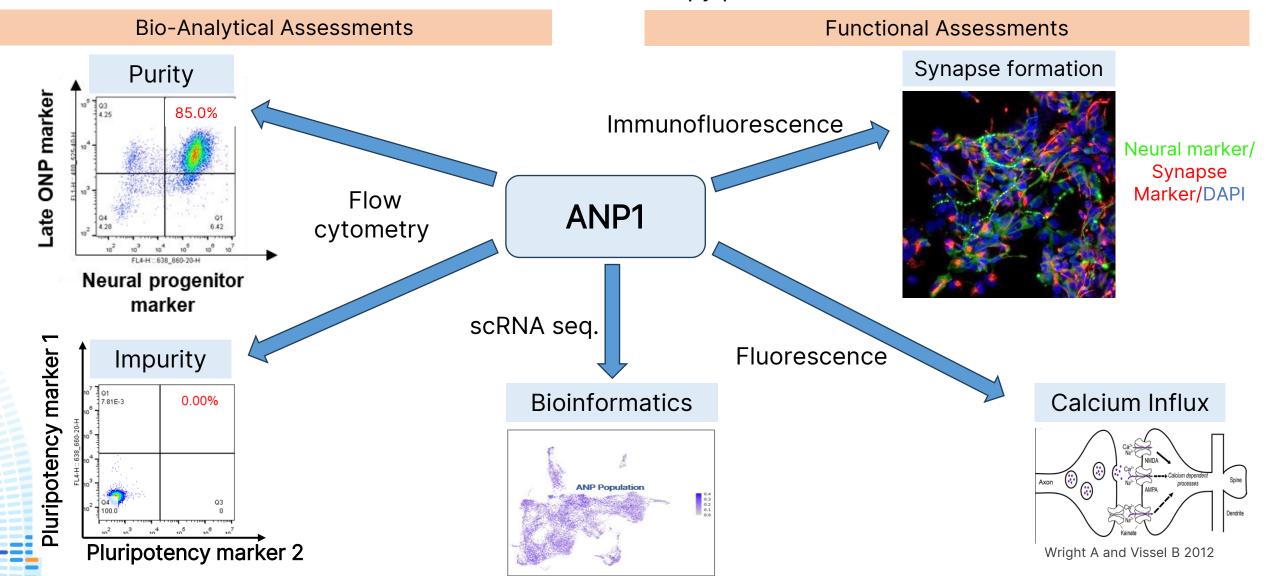




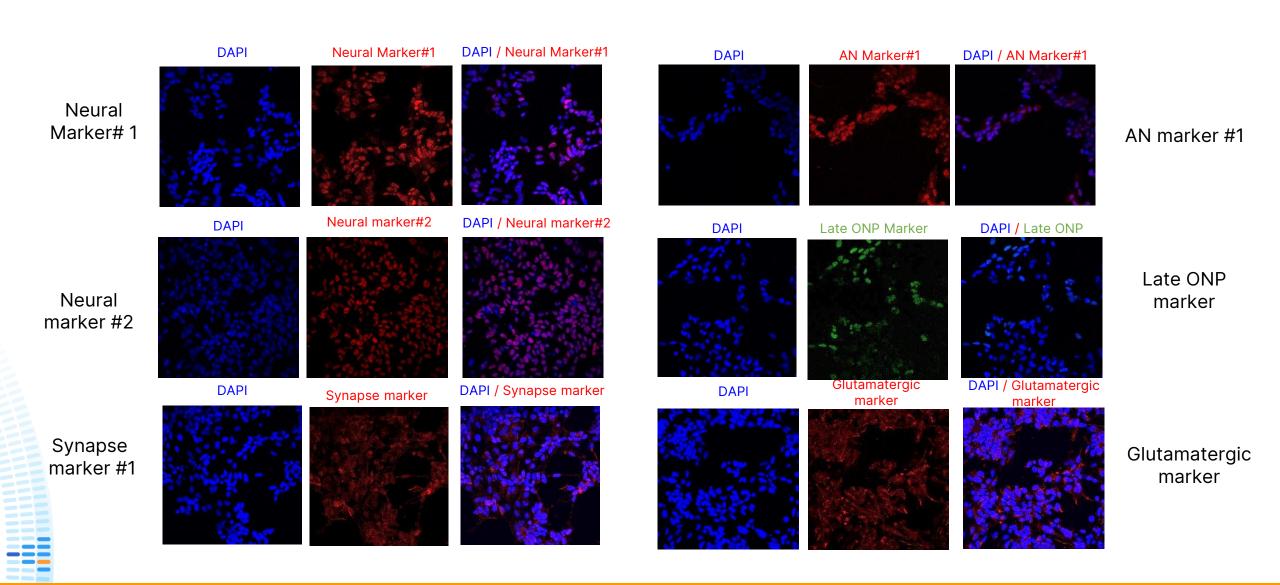
Induction of otic neural progenitor markers and Elimination of Pluripotency markers along differentiation timeline

Product Characterization To Assess Clinical Applicability

Snapshot of in-vitro analytical method development, designed to monitor the differentiation process and the final cell therapy product

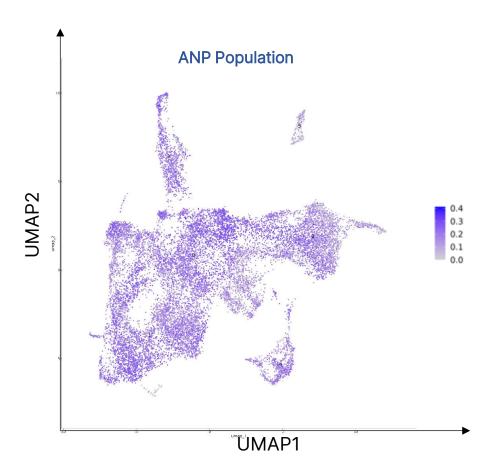


Advanced Characterization: ANP1 Expresses Otic Neural Progenitors and Neural Markers



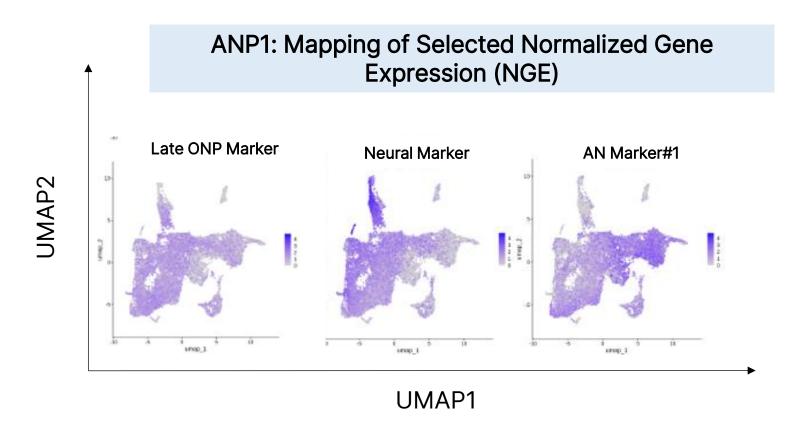
ANP1 Bioinformatics: Auditory Neuron-Related Gene Expression

- Bioinformatics is a computational approach that facilitates a deeper understanding of ANP1 cell function and differentiation
 - scRNA seq analysis was performed on the ready to inject ANP1 drug product
 - Bioinformatics using UMAP was created based on principle component analysis (PCA)
 - Generation of AN related Gene sets was based on available worldwide databases (such as MSigDB, Panglao and Cell Marker) and recently published scientific data.
- As a part of safety measures, an orthogonal analysis using a specific gene set did not detect any residual hPSC cells within the final product.



Color representation of cells expressing auditory neuron-defined gene set, based on literature review

ANP1 Bioinformatics: Auditory Neuron Genes Distribution



Bioinformatics reveals expression of key auditory neuron related genes distributed among ANP1 final product



Developing Functional Assays for Auditory Neurons

Hair cell

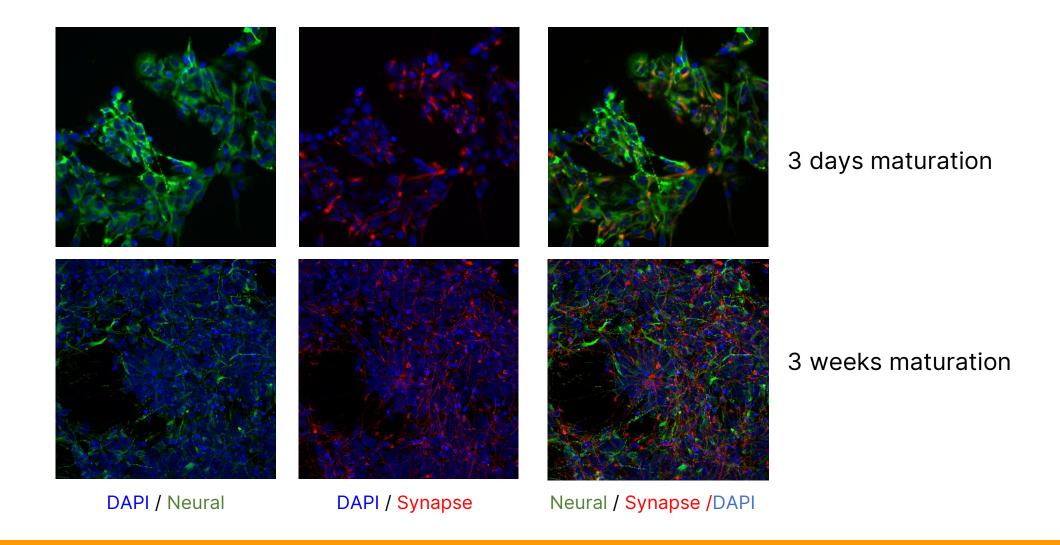
Hair cells release **Glutamate** (neurotransmitter) to stimulate auditory neurons

Auditory neurons and hair cells form Synapse - IHC-SGN synapse Auditory neuron cell

Neuronal Activity - Action potential generated and propagated towards cochlear nucleolus

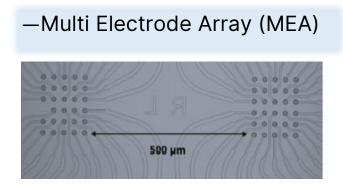
ANP1: Initial Assessment of Connectivity In-Vitro using a Synapse Marker

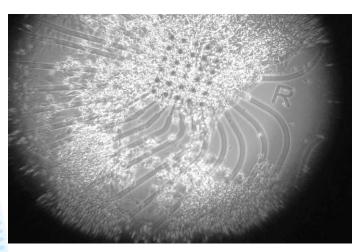
ANP1 morphological characterization is based on a combination of neural and synapse-related markers, showing a significant increase in expression with culture time

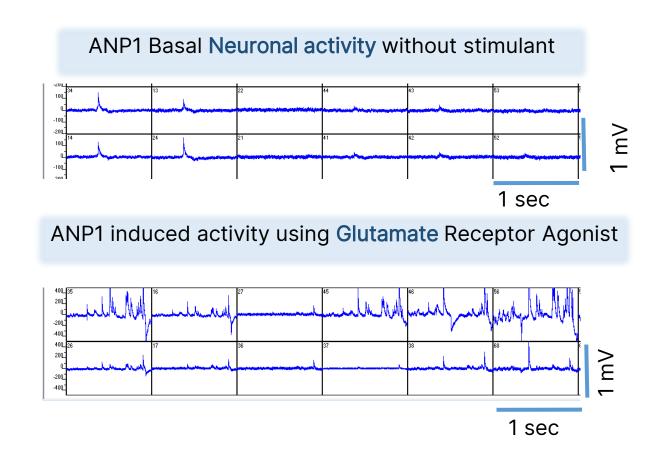


Auditory Neuronal Activity on Multi Electrode Array

Neuronal activity from multiple ANP1 cells was recoded simultaneously in the absence (basal activity) and presence (induced activity) of glutamate receptor agonist, using multi electrode array

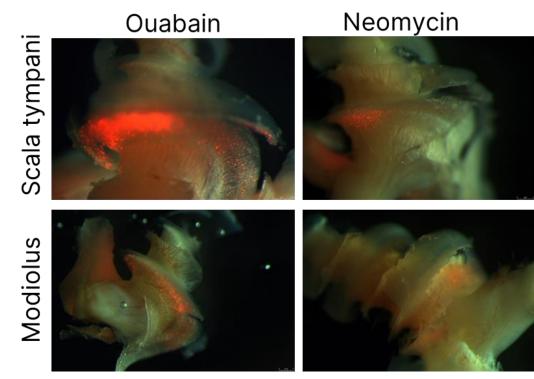






ANP1 7-Day Preclinical Study Demonstrating Survival

- Delivery and survival of ANP1 in preclinical models through collaboration with Prof. Yehoash Raphael and University of Michigan
- Comparison of multiple models of chemical deafness and routes of administration
 - Neomycin vs ouabain induced deafness
 - Modiolus vs scala tympani administration
- Conclusions
 - ANP1 cells observed 7 days post-administration
 - Ouabain model exhibited fewer side effects, improved depletion of endogenous neurons
 - Both routes of administration appeared effective



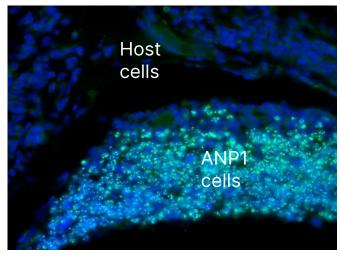
ANP1 cells (labeled red) observed 7 days after administration

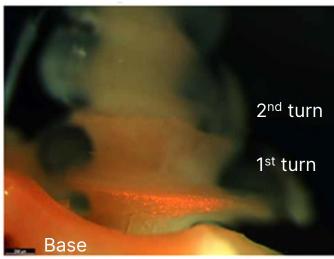


ANP1 Preclinical Study-Indication of Cell Engraftment

Conclusions

- ANP1 cells were observed 7 days post-administration.
- ANP1 cells were able to spread beyond the injection site.
- ANP1 cells were able to engraft and populate the cochlea.





ANP1 cells were identified by red label or IF using human nucleoli-specific antibody (green)



ANP1 ("ReSonance") Summary and Future Path

- ANP1 is a novel cell-based product candidate composed of auditory neuron progenitors derived from clinical grade pluripotent stem cells
- ANP1 cells were successfully manufactured at scale, met pre-set release criteria, and demonstrated relevant in-vitro functional activity
- ANP1 cells were cryopreserved in a clinical dose, ready-to-administer format, and were successfully thawed and transplanted into a guinea pig hearing loss model
- ANP1 survived and engrafted in a 7-day in-vivo study
- ANP1 cells are currently being evaluated in long term efficacy study
- ANP1 holds promise as new therapeutic modality for hearing loss



Thank You.

CCN, Lineage Cell Therapeutics, Inc. Teams

University of Michigan Team

Prof. Yehoash Raphael Lisa A. Beyer Diane M. Prieskorn





