



Exploring Novel Modalities: Disabling the NLRP3 Inflammasome with a NEK7 Molecular Glue Degradator

Alison Paterson, Vice President | Discovery Biology | Monte Rosa Therapeutics

11th September 2024



Forward-looking Statements

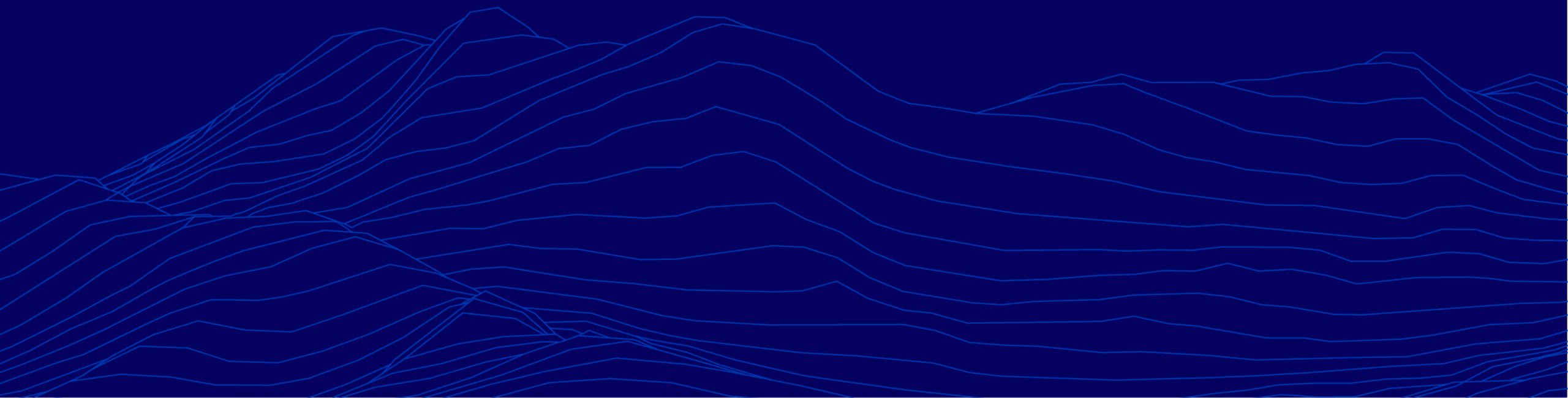
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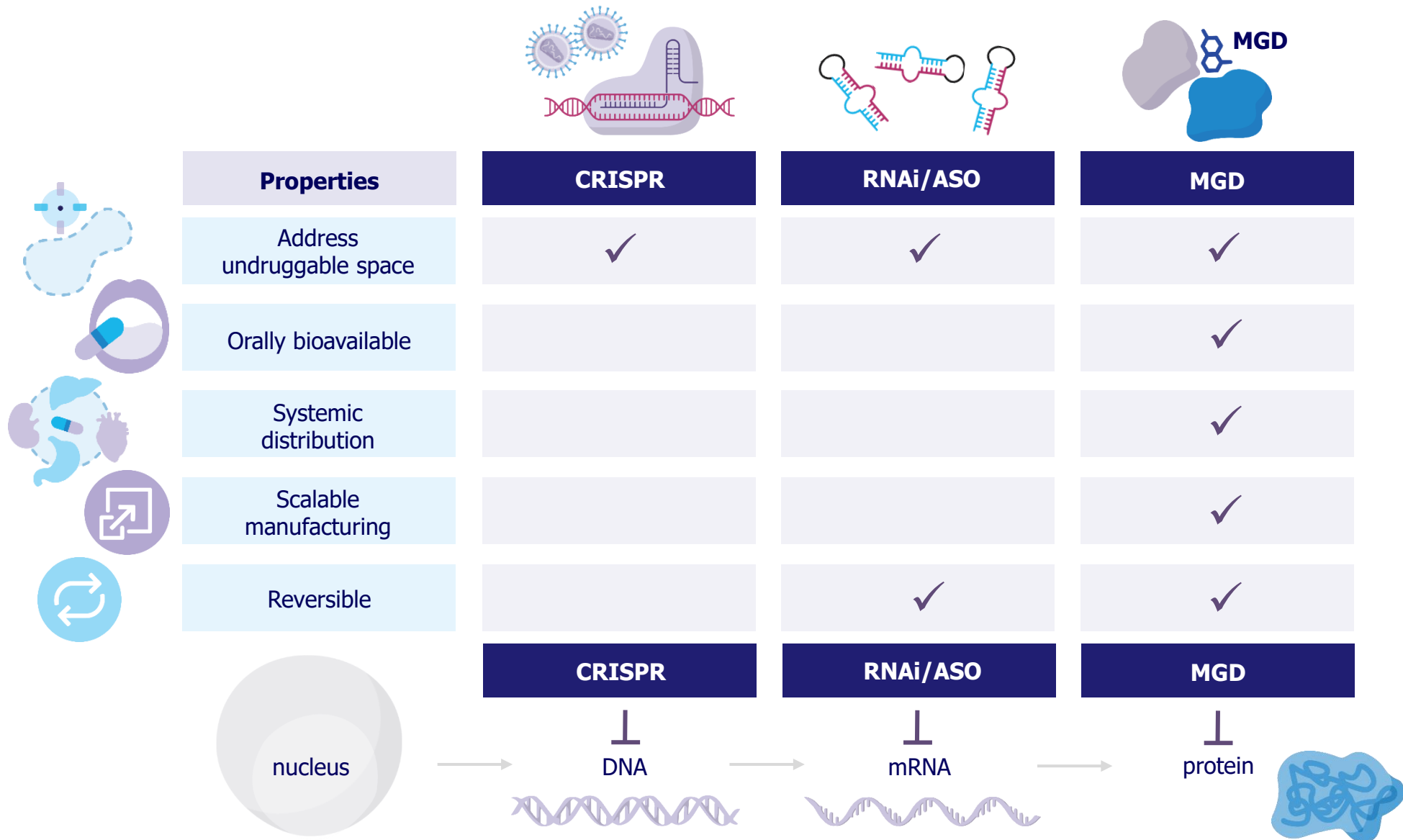
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Therapeutics

An Introduction to Molecular Glue Degraders at Monte Rosa Therapeutics

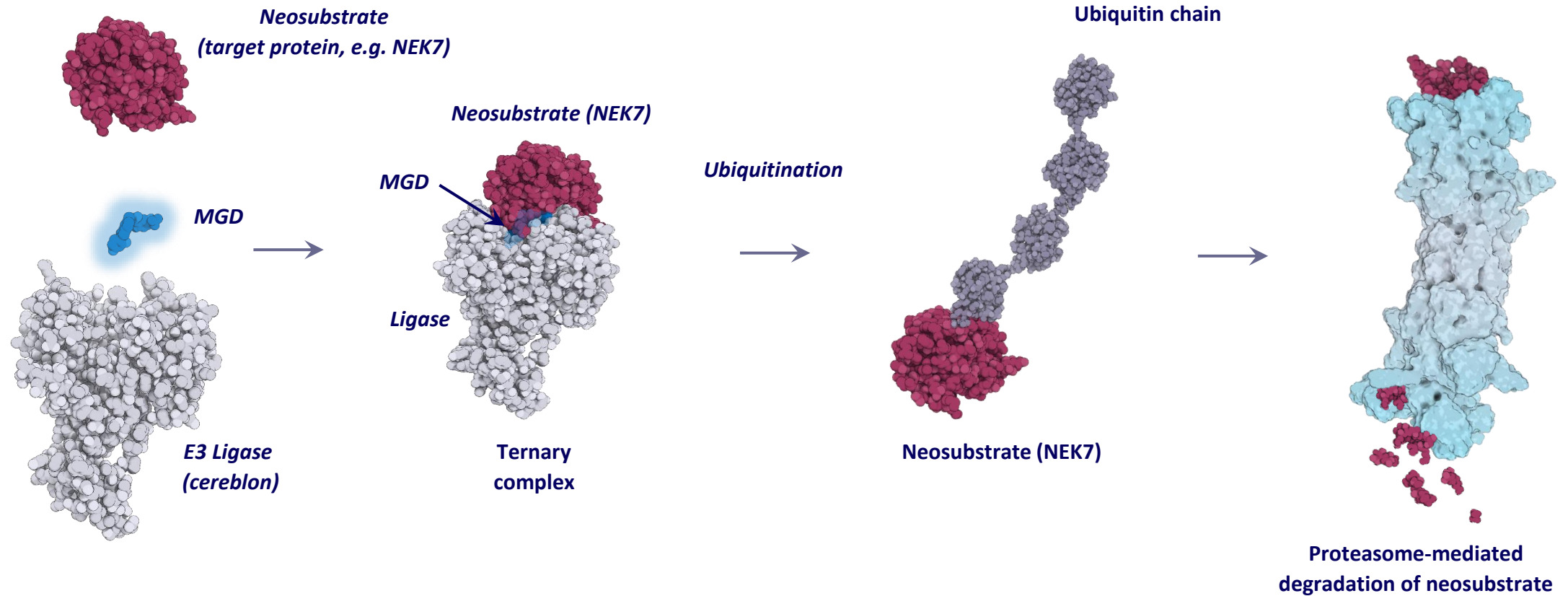


Molecular Glue Degradators (MGDs) – A Highly Differentiated Modality

Advantages of large molecule modalities with orally dosed small molecules



Our Molecular Glue Degraders (MGDs) Edit the Proteome



Monte Rosa's rationally designed MGDs have potential applications in Oncology, Immunology, Neuroscience and other therapeutic areas

Monte Rosa Pipeline and Upcoming Milestones

Target	Compound	Indication(s)	Discovery	IND-Enabling	Clinical	Next Anticipated Milestone	Ownership
GSPT1	MRT-2359	NSCLC, SCLC and other MYC-driven Malignancies				RP2D and Phase 1 data in H2 2024	
VAV1	MRT-6160	Autoimmune Disease – Systemic and CNS				Phase 1 data in Q1 2025	
NEK7	MRT-8102	IL-1β/NLRP3-driven Inflammatory Diseases				IND submission in H1 2025	
	LO (2 nd generation)					Development candidate	
CDK2	LO	Breast Cancer				Development candidate in 2024	
CCNE1 (Cyclin E1)	LO	CCNE1 amplified tumors				Development candidate	
Discovery Targets	-	Multiple				Lead optimization	
Discovery Targets	-	Oncology and Neurological Diseases				Undisclosed	

Oncology
 Immunology
 Inflammation
 Various

As presented in company disclosures, August 19, 2024



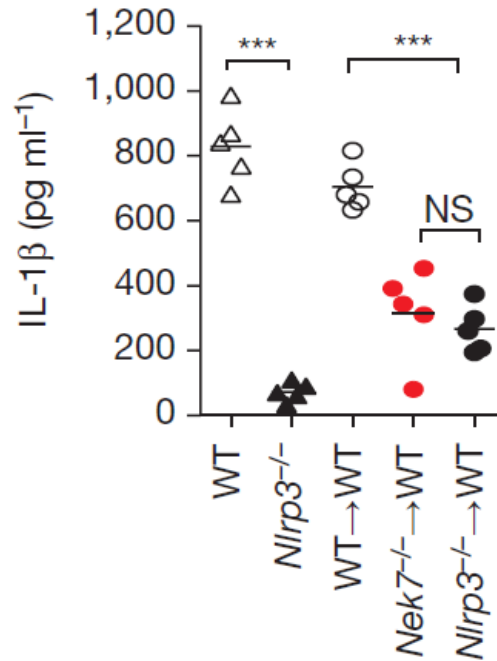


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NEK7 as a Critical Component of NLRP3 Inflammasome

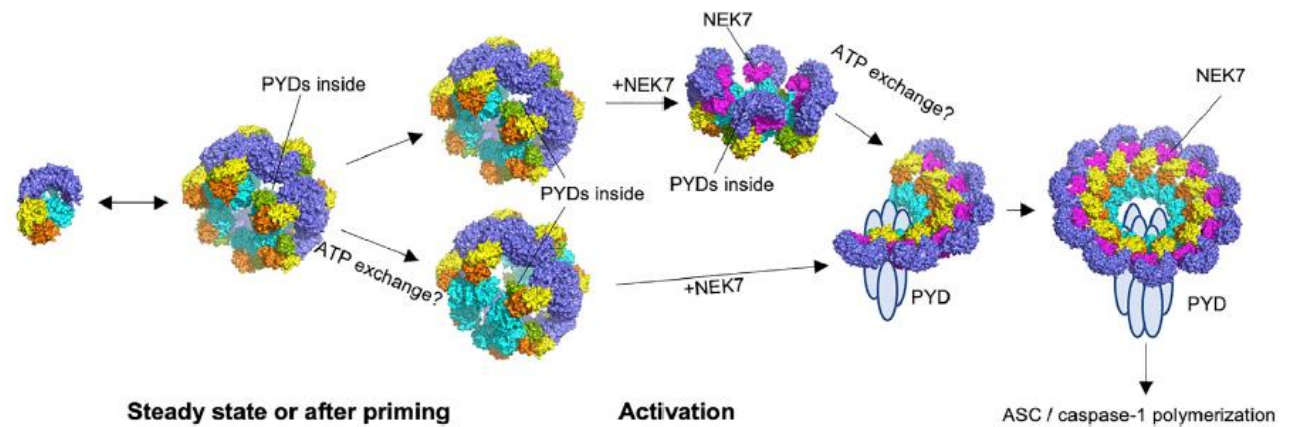
Connecting NEK7 to the NLRP3 Inflammasome – The History

NEK7 is required for activation of the NLRP3 inflammasome *in vivo*



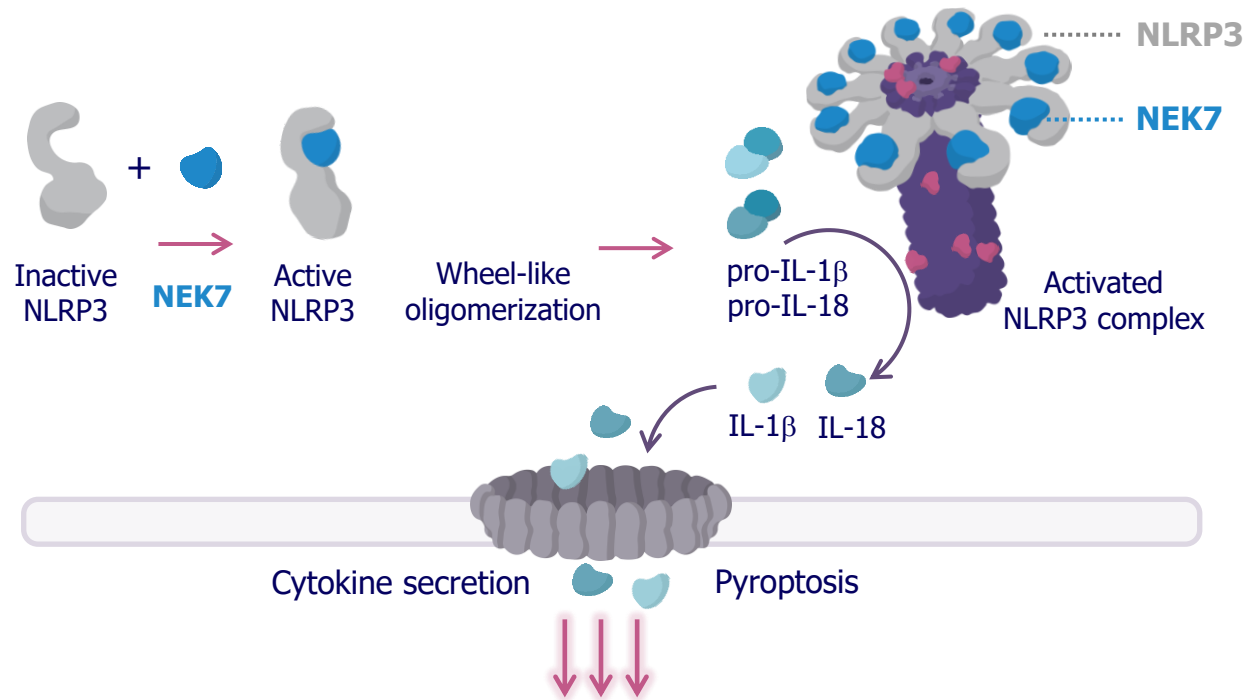
He et al., Nature 2016

Structural licensing of NLRP3 by NEK7 binding



Andreeva et al., Cell 2021

NEK7 is a Key Regulator of NLRP3 Inflammasomes, IL-1 and IL-18



Therapeutic Hypothesis:

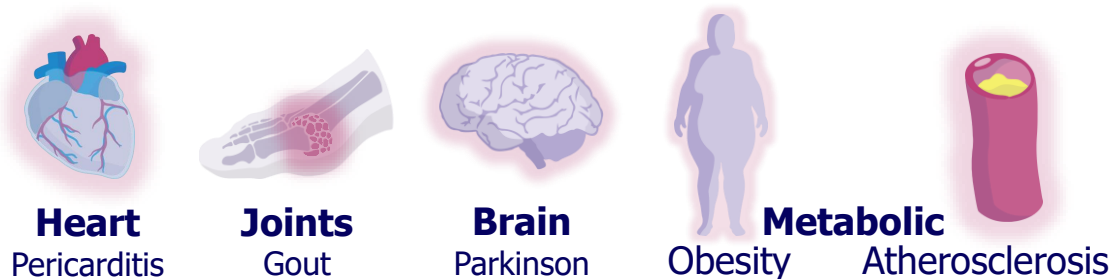
Activation of the NLRP3 inflammasome critically depends on NEK7

- NEK7 licenses NLRP3 assembly in a kinase-independent manner
- NEK7-deficient macrophages are severely impaired in IL-1 β and IL-18 secretion

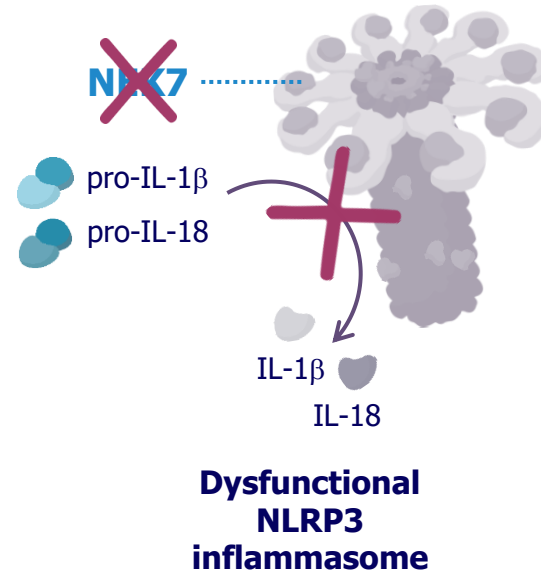
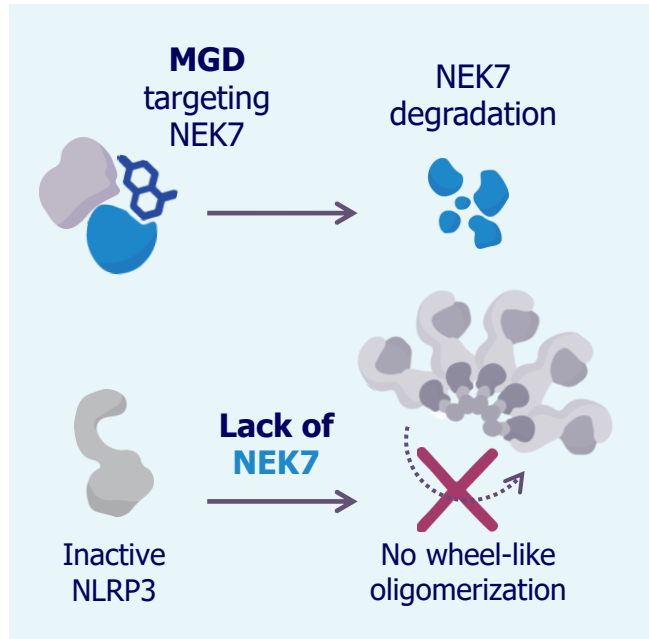
Consequently, NEK7 degradation has the potential to become an important treatment modality for a variety of inflammatory diseases

Clinical Opportunity:

Diseases driven by IL-1 and the NLRP3 inflammasome including gout, pericarditis and other cardiovascular disease, neurodegenerative disease, and obesity



NEK7 is a Key Regulator of NLRP3 Inflammasomes, IL-1 and IL-18



Therapeutic Hypothesis:

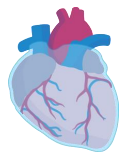
Activation of the NLRP3 inflammasome critically depends on NEK7

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Clinical Opportunity:

Diseases driven by IL-1 and the NLRP3 inflammasome including gout, pericarditis and other cardiovascular disease, neurodegenerative disease, and obesity



Heart
Pericarditis



Joints
Gout



Brain
Parkinson

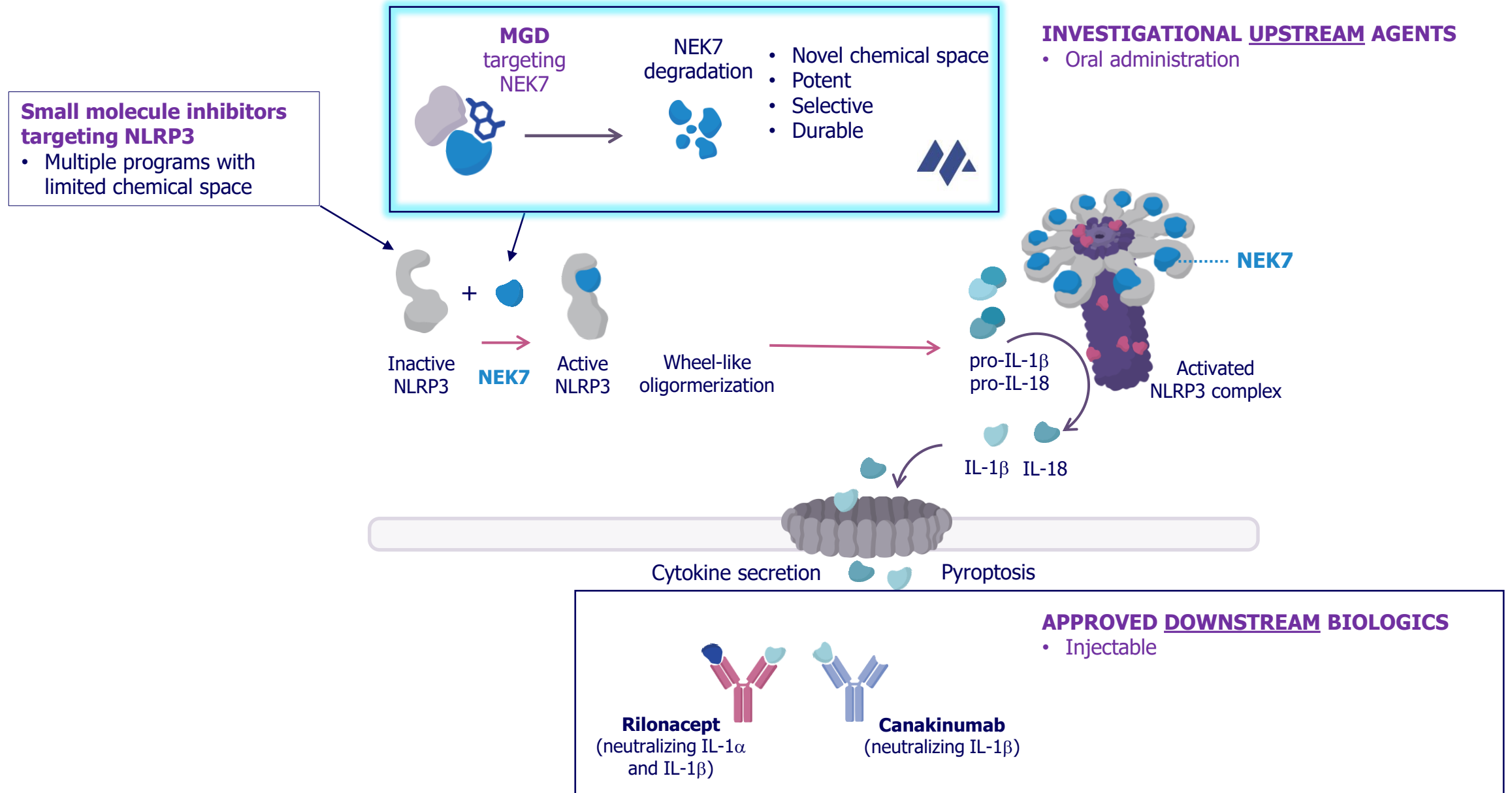


Metabolic
Obesity



Atherosclerosis

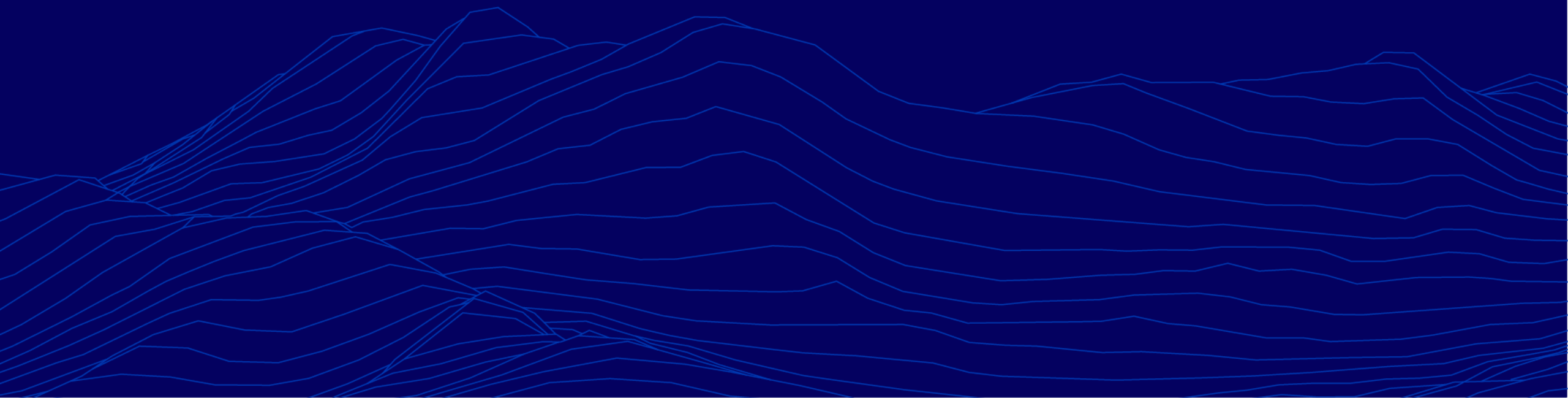
The Evolving NLRP3 Modulator Landscape





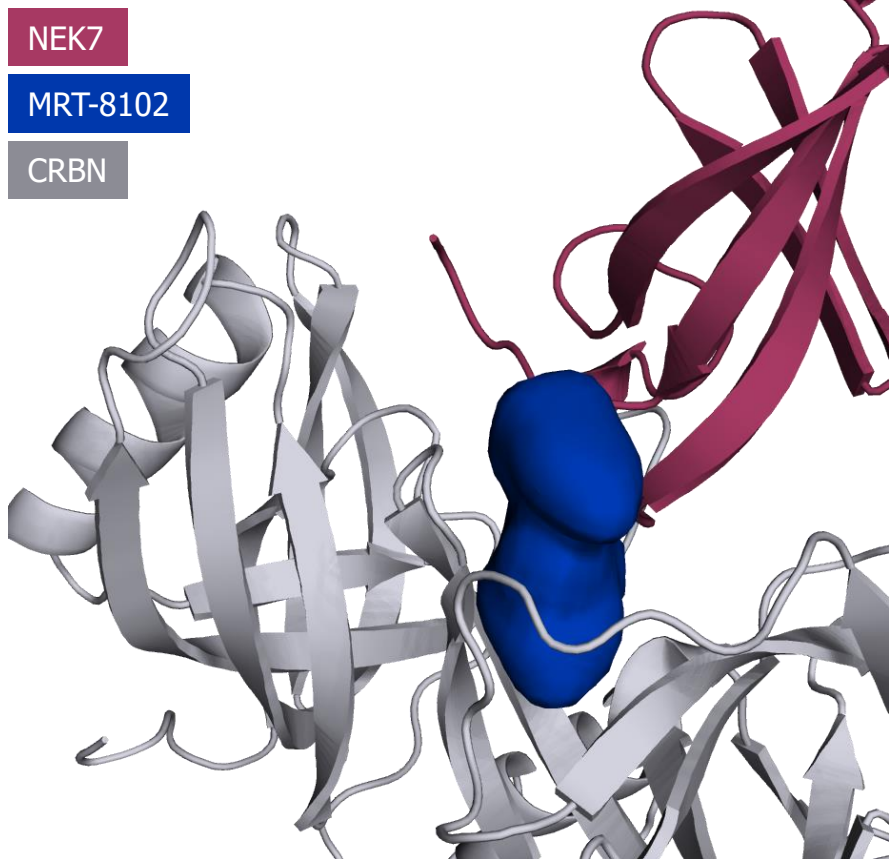
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NEK7 MGD – MRT-8102



MRT-8102 is a Potent, Selective NEK7-Directed MGD With a Favorable Drug-like Profile

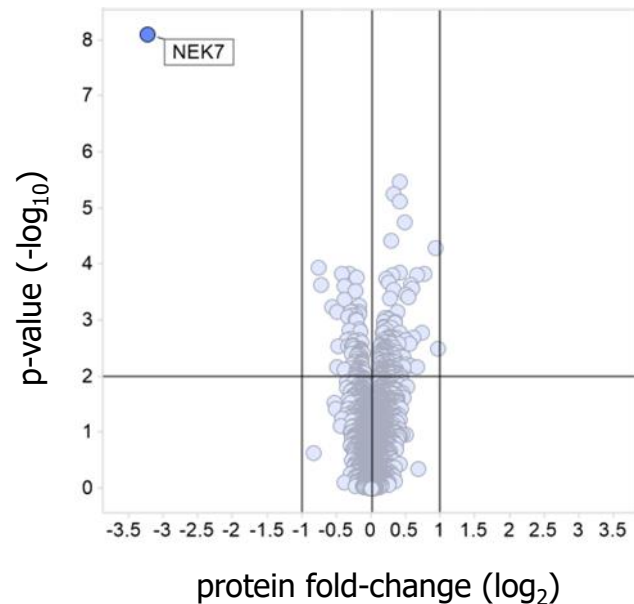
NEK7 Ternary Complex (Crystal Structure)



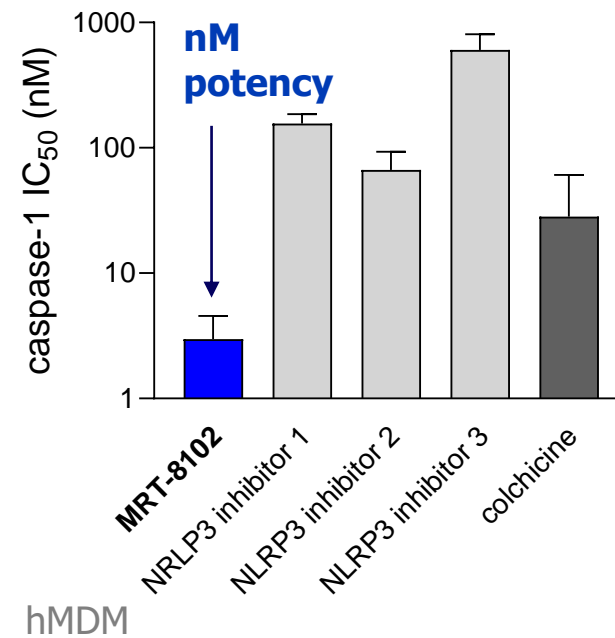
MGD Activity Profile	
CRBN Binding (HTRF, IC ₅₀)	0.2 μM
NEK7 Degradation (CAL51, DC ₅₀ /Dmax)	10 nM / 89%
Selectivity (TMT proteomics)	Excellent selectivity profile in different cell lines
Species activity	Active in human and non-human primates Not active in rodents
Physicochemical Properties	
LogD	1.47
MW	<450
Thermodynamic Solubility	166 μM
ADMET Profile	
Oral Bioavailability	Yes
Metabolite Profile (<i>in vitro</i>)	No unique human metabolites or GSH adducts (mics)
Safety Pharmacology	
Mini-Ames	Negative
hERG (patch clamp)	No inhibition (EC50 > 30 μM)
Counterscreens (panel with 44 proteins)	No inhibition

NEK7 MGD as a Differentiated Approach to Targeting NLRP3 Inflammasome

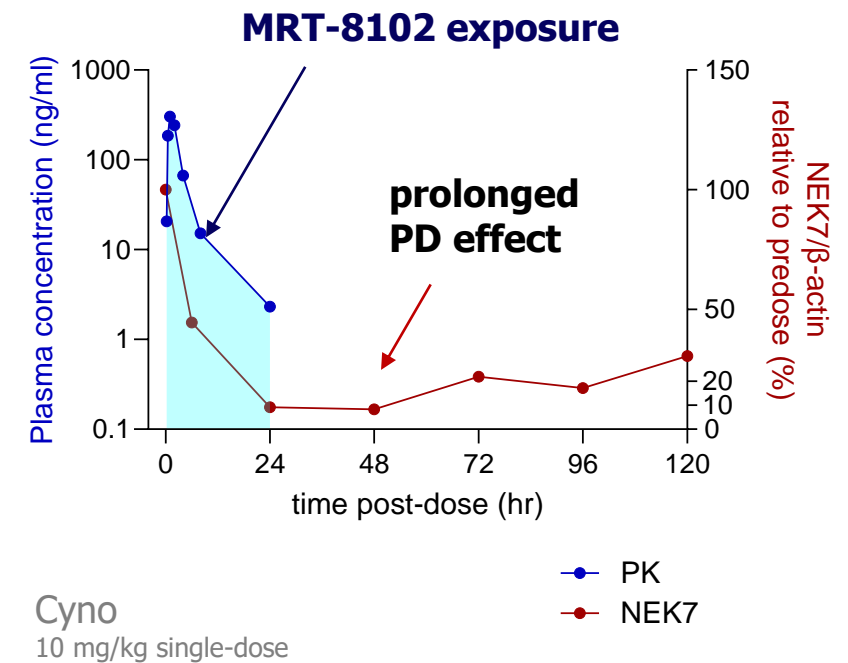
Selectivity



Potency



Durability



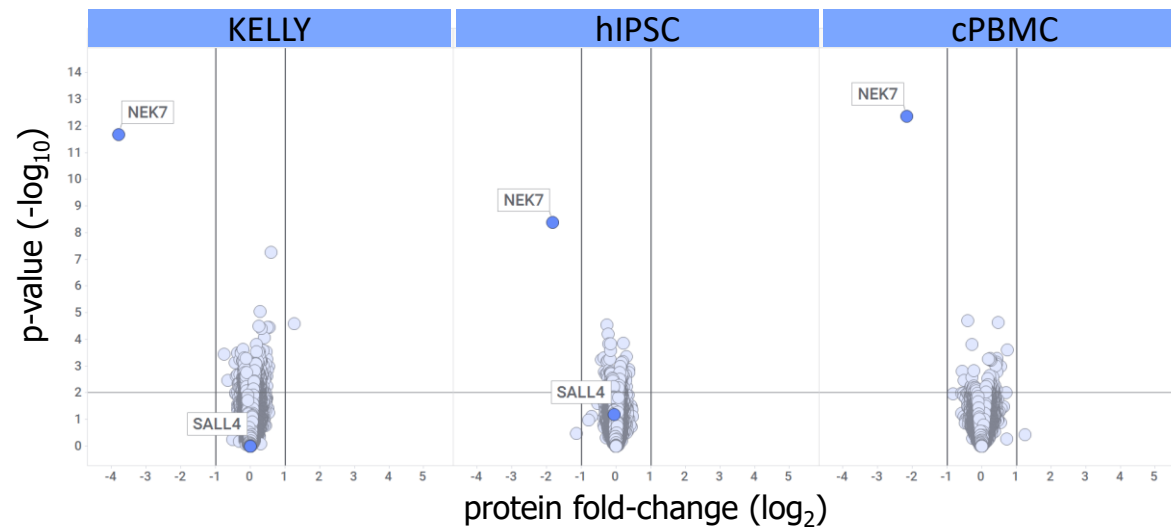
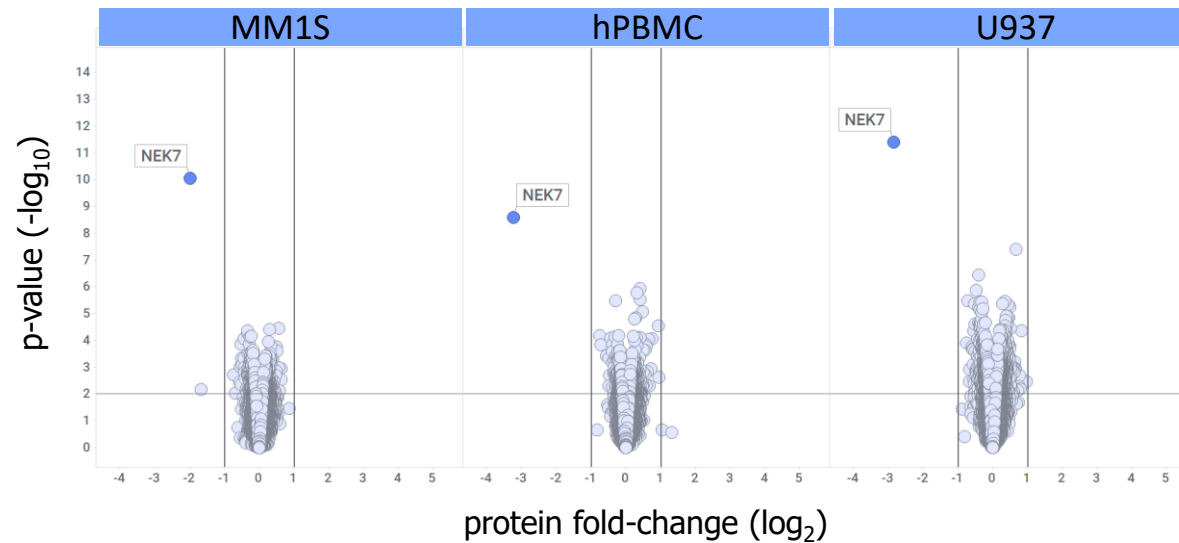
hPBMC

hMDM

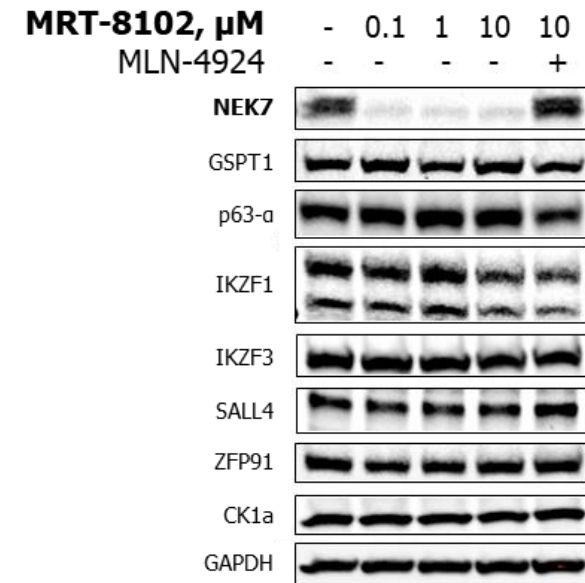
Cyno
10 mg/kg single-dose

hMDM = human monocyte-derived macrophages
hPBMC = human peripheral blood mononuclear cells
cyno = cynomolgus monkey

MRT-8102 is Highly Selectivity Across a Broad Array of Cells



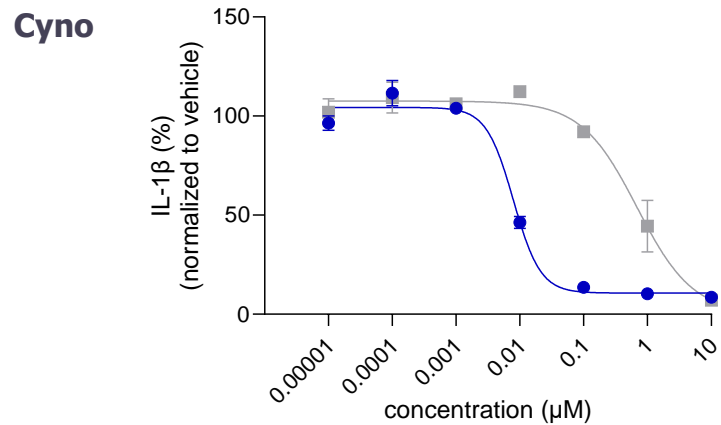
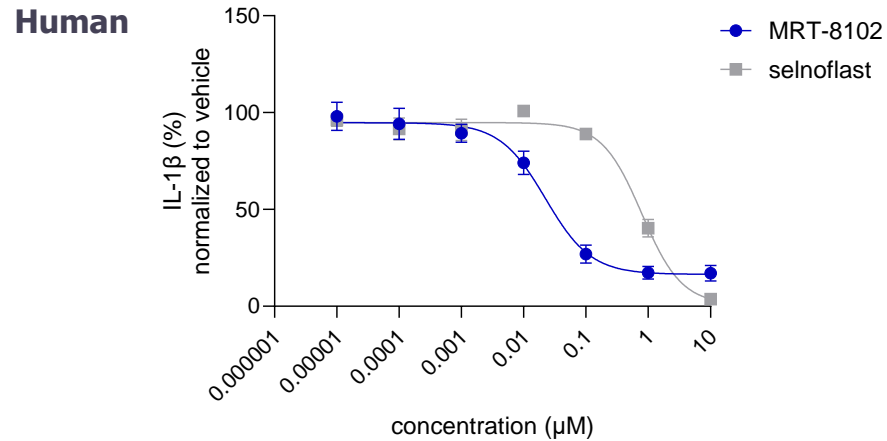
MRT-8102 at 10 μ M in each cell line, 24h



6h post treatment in MM.1S, Kelly (SALL4), or Raji (p63- α)
2uM MLN-4924, 30 min pre-treatment

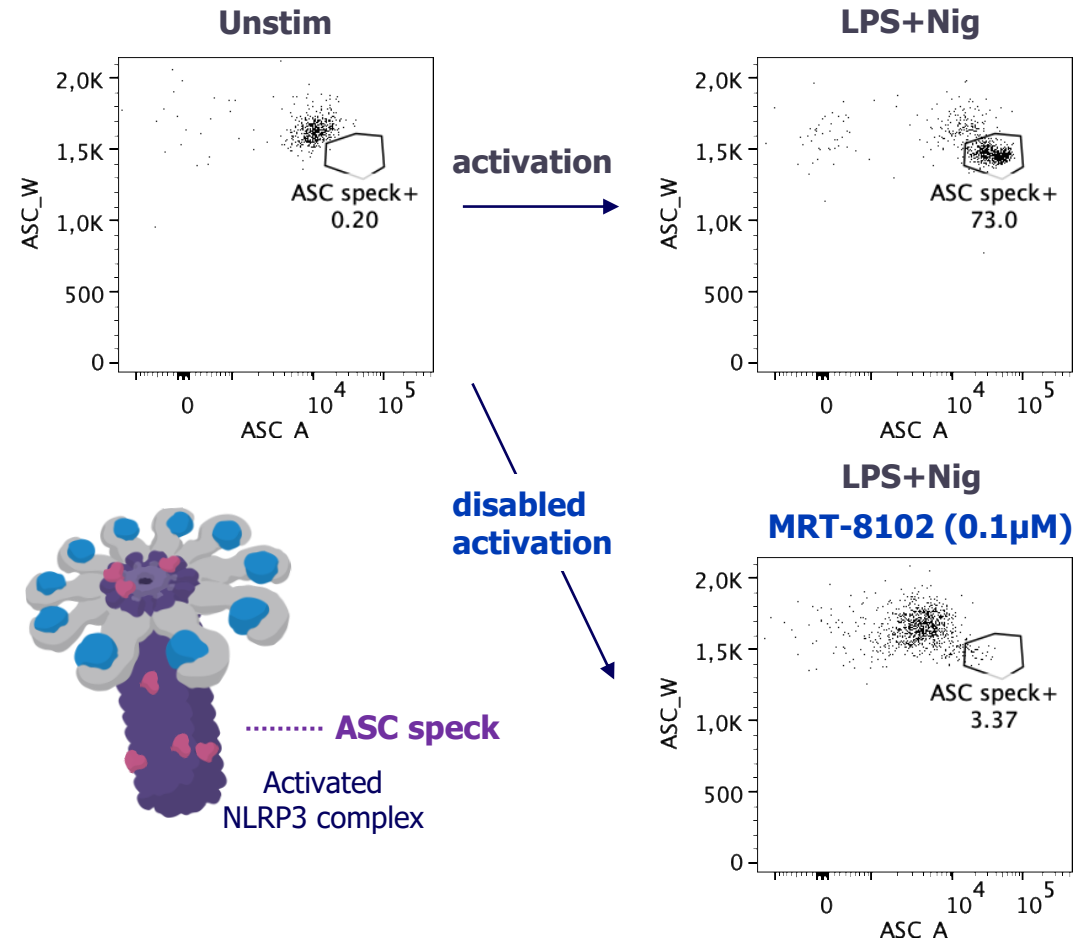
MRT-8102 Leads to Potent Inhibition of NLRP3 Inflammasome in Human and Cynomolgus Monkey Cells *In Vitro*

Reduced IL-1 β in human and cynomolgus monkey whole blood



LPS + Nigericin

Reduced ASC speck formation in human whole blood

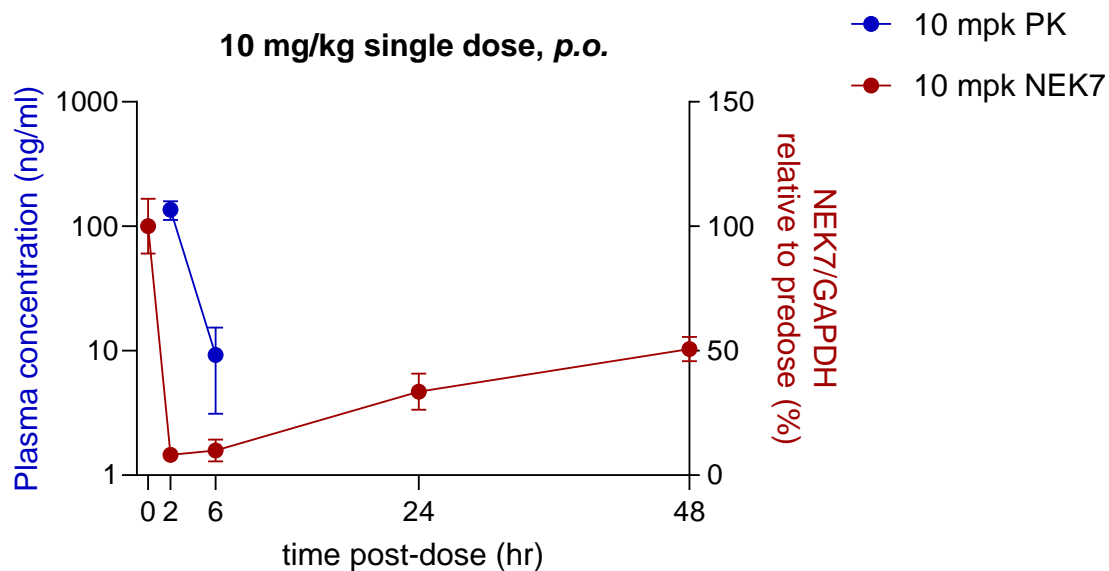


Gating strategy: Single cells_CD45+_CD66b-_CD14+

MRT-8102 Degrades NEK7 in Single-Dose *in vivo* Studies

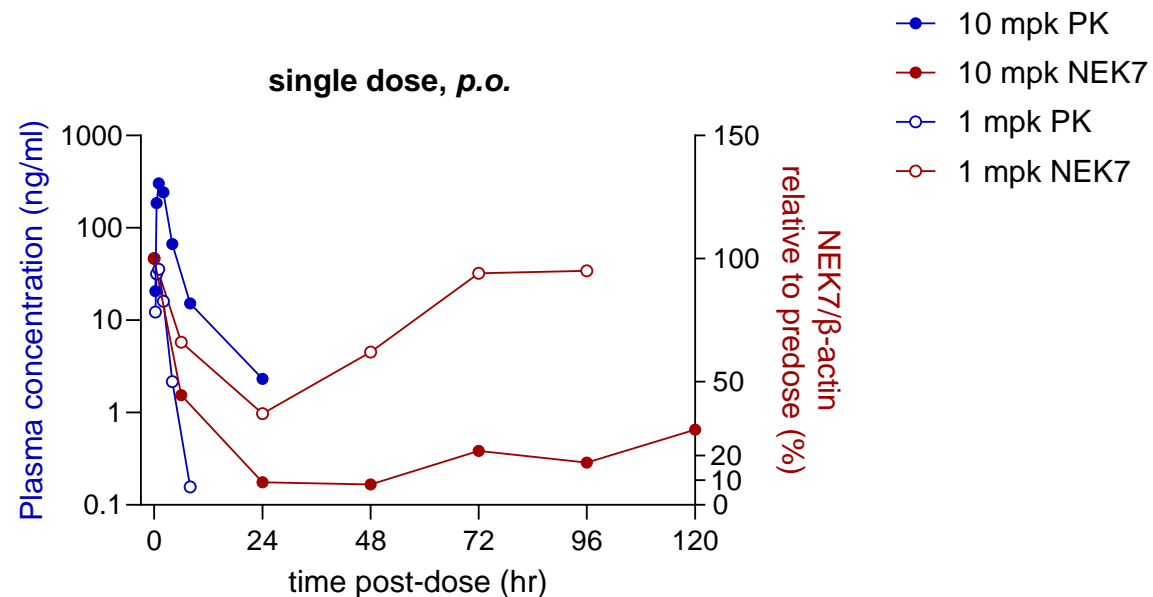
MRT-8102 does not degrade NEK7 in rodent species; PK/PD models in xenograft and cyno

MRT-8102 shows deep degradation in U937 xenograft PK/PD model



U937 s.c. xenograft
n=3 CB17.SCID mice per timepoint
hNEK7 levels in U937 tumor

MRT-8102 shows dose-dependent degradation in cynomolgus monkey

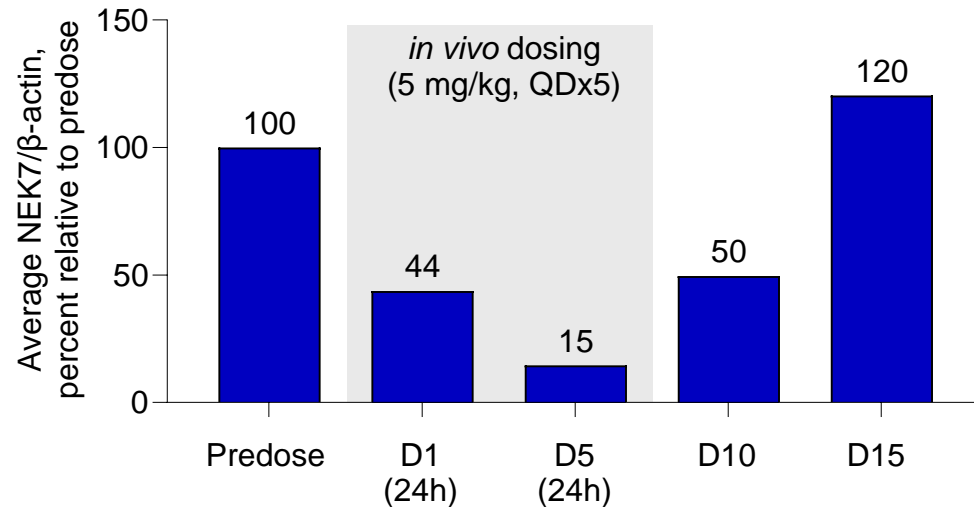


n=2 cynomolgus monkey (one male and one female) per dose
cNEK7 levels in PBMC

In Vivo Proof-of-mechanism for NEK7 MGD MRT-8102

MRT-8102 induces degradation of NEK7 *in vivo* over several days

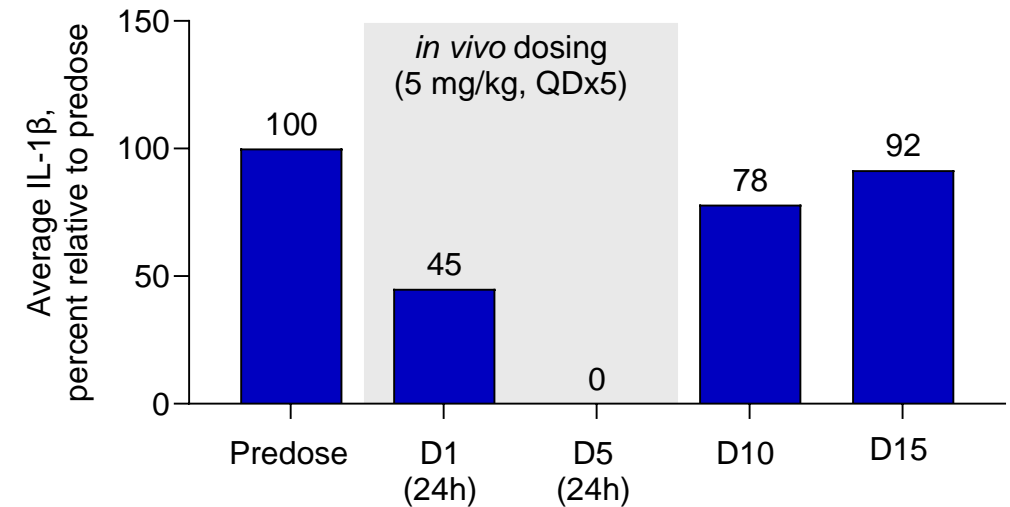
NEK7 in cyno PBMC



$n = 2$

***In vivo* NEK7 degradation leads to inhibition of NLRP3 inflammasome in *ex vivo* stimulation assay**

IL-1β post *ex vivo* stimulation

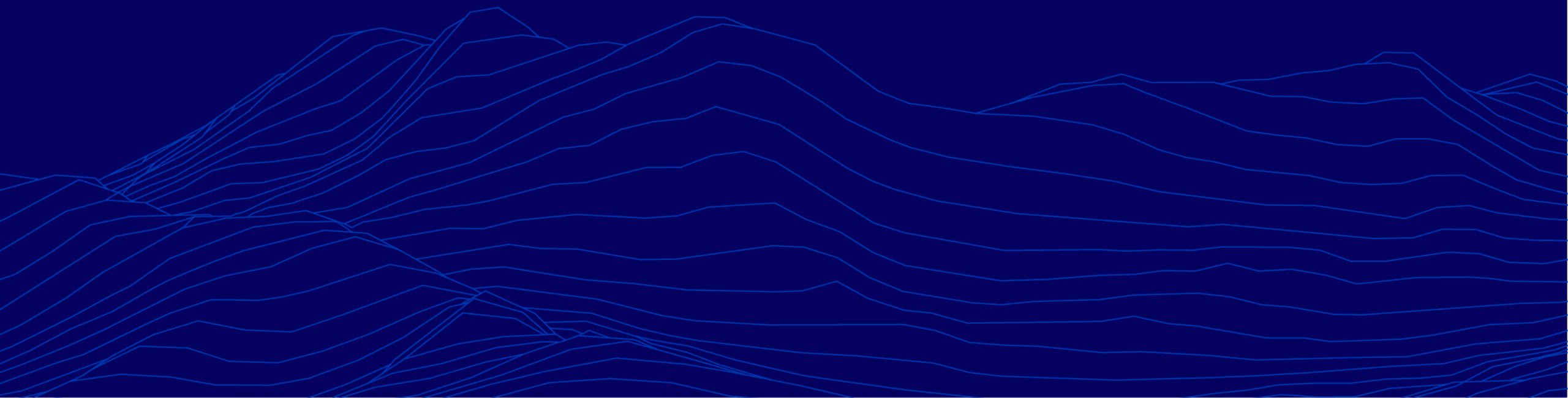


- IL-1β in plasma after *ex vivo* stimulation with LPS + nigericin; $n = 2$
- Follow-up study with 1 mg/kg MRT-8102, *i.v.* at 4 hr showed similar results

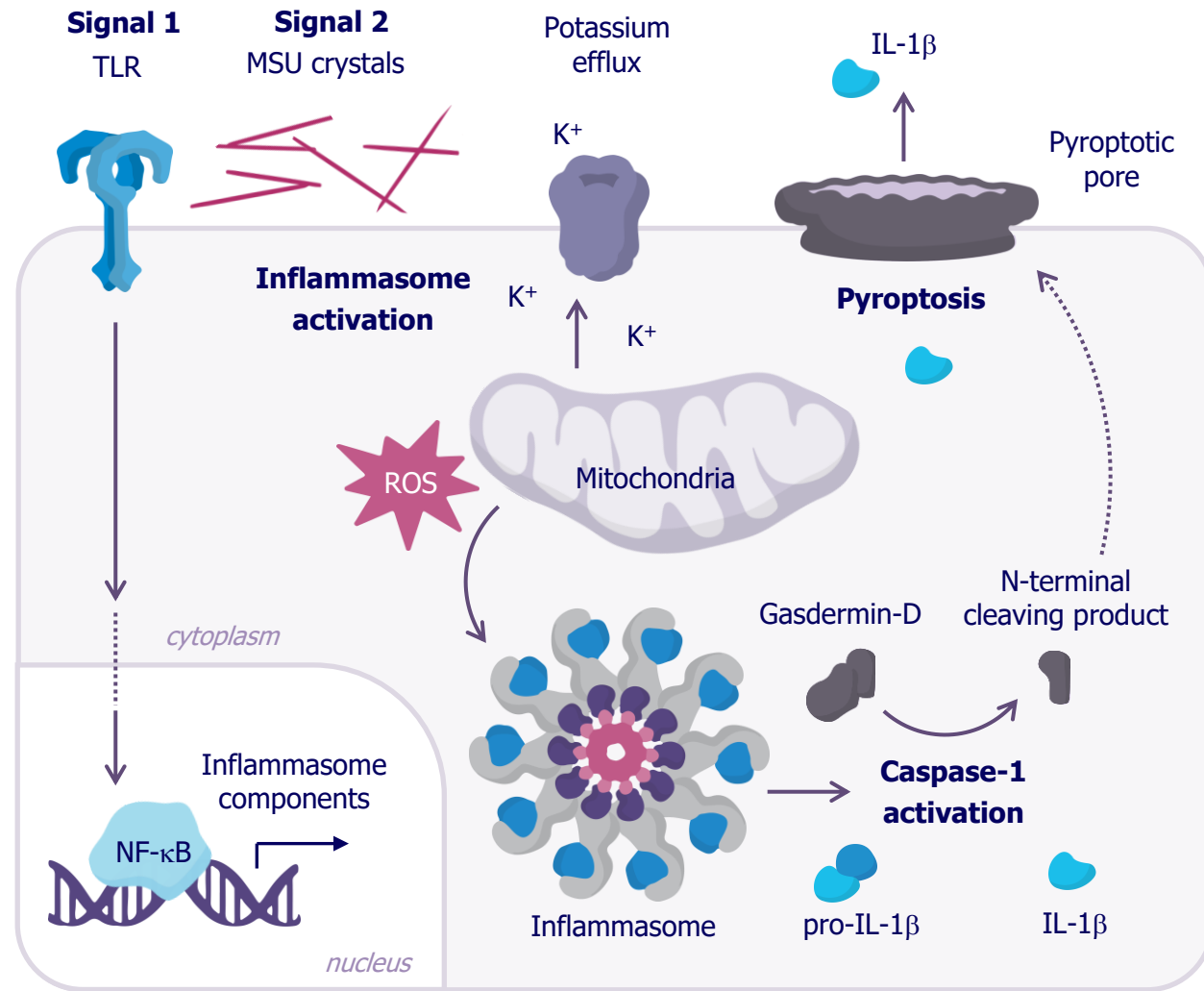


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Gout as a Clinical Opportunity

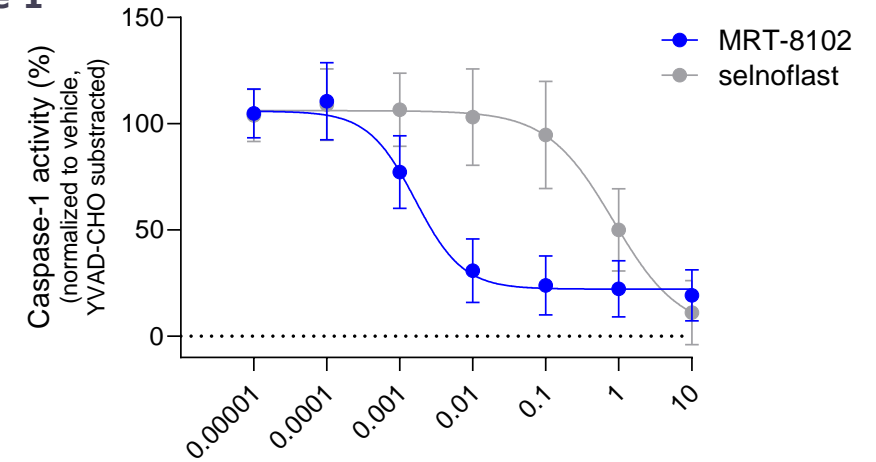


NEK7 MGDs Inhibit NLRP3 Activation by Monosodium Urate

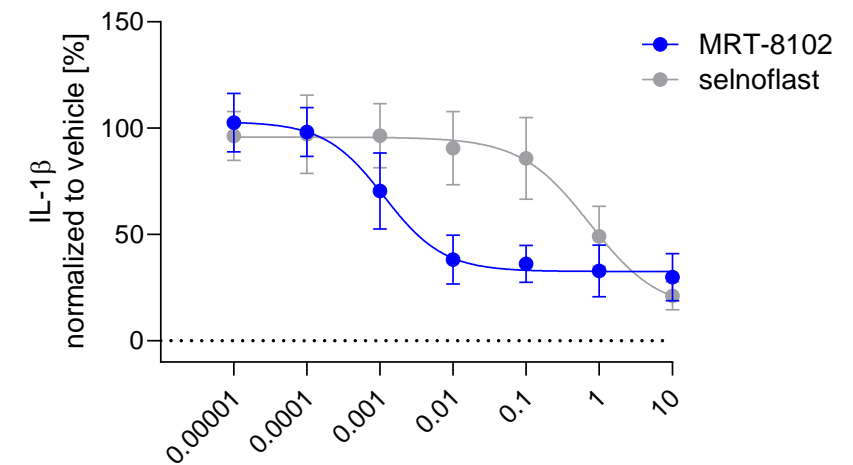


MRT-8102 reduces MSU-induced NLRP3 inflammasome activation

Caspase-1



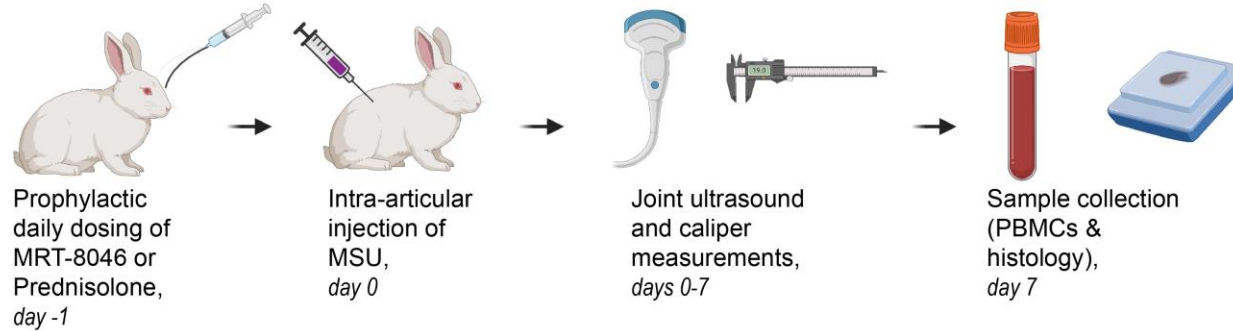
IL-1β



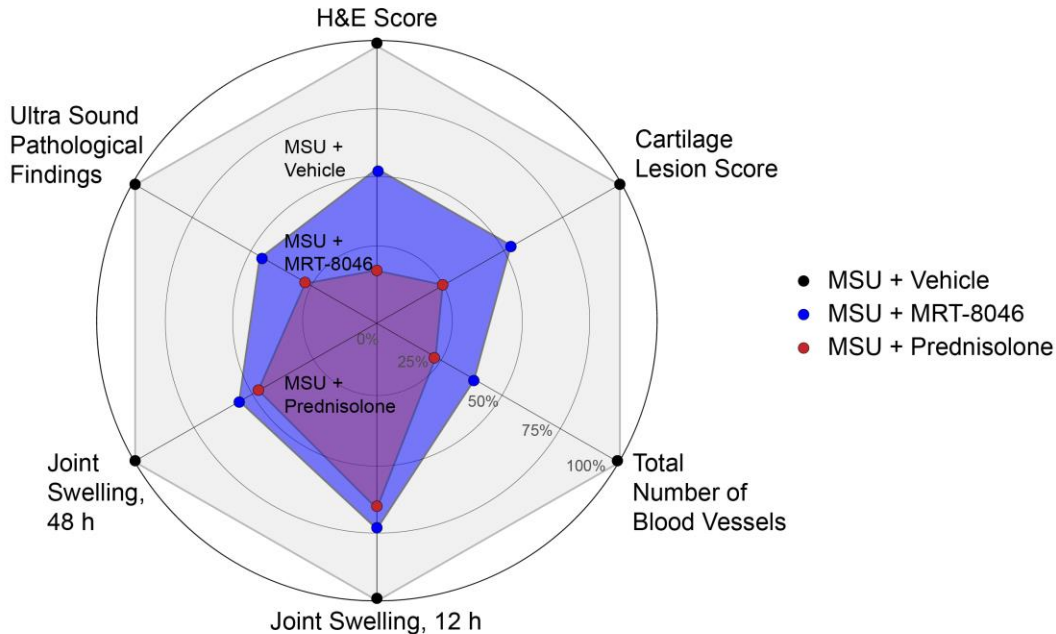
Human monocyte-derived macrophages LPS + MSU stimulation
Pretreatment with molecular glue degrader (MGD) or NLRP3 inhibitor (NLRP3i)

NEK7 MGD Reduces MSU-Driven Effects In Rabbit Gout Model

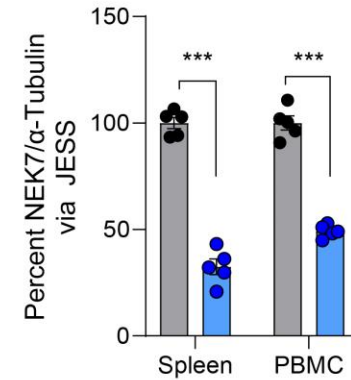
MRT-8046 is rabbit-active NEK7 MGD



Pathological Findings, Relative to MSU + Vehicle Condition

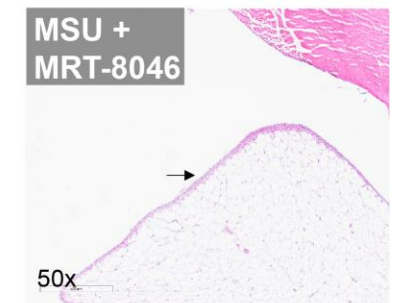
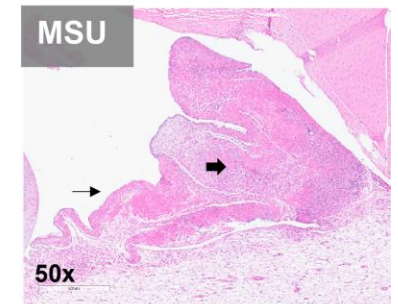
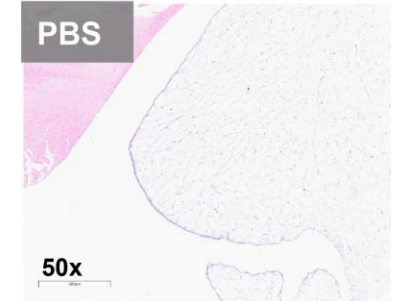


NEK7 Protein



- Vehicle
- MRT-8046

Samples harvested 2h post final dose

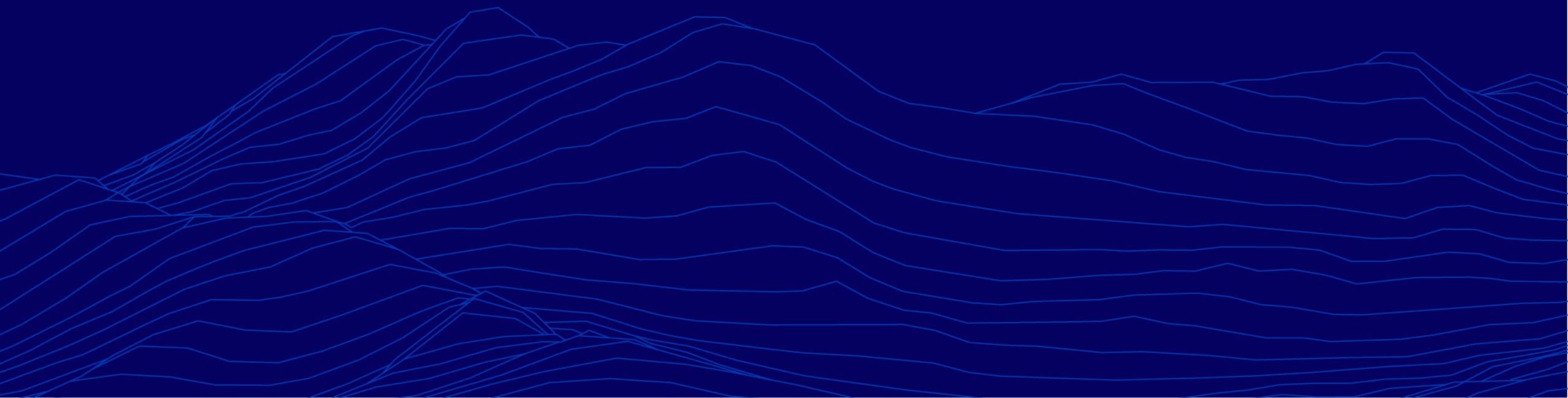


- Hyperplastic lining layer of the synovial membrane
- ➔ Inflammatory cell infiltration

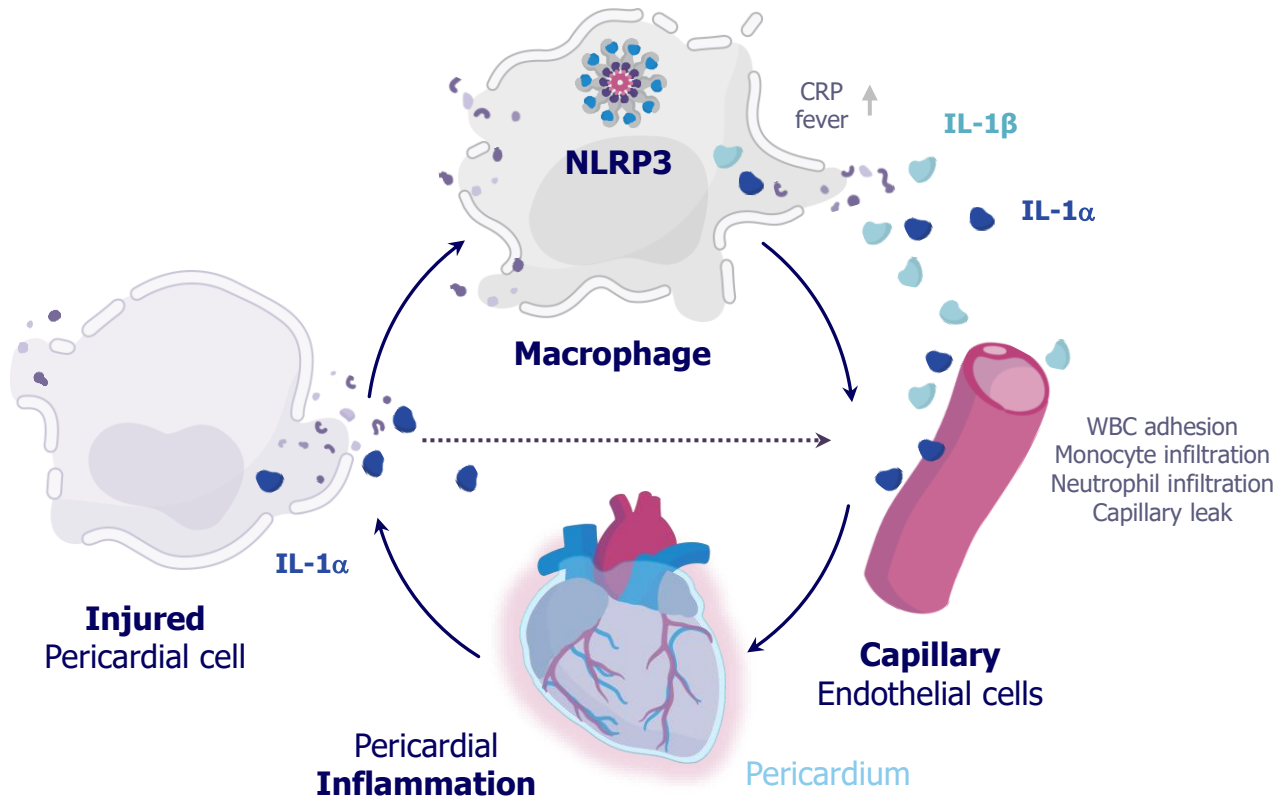


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Pericarditis as a Clinical Opportunity

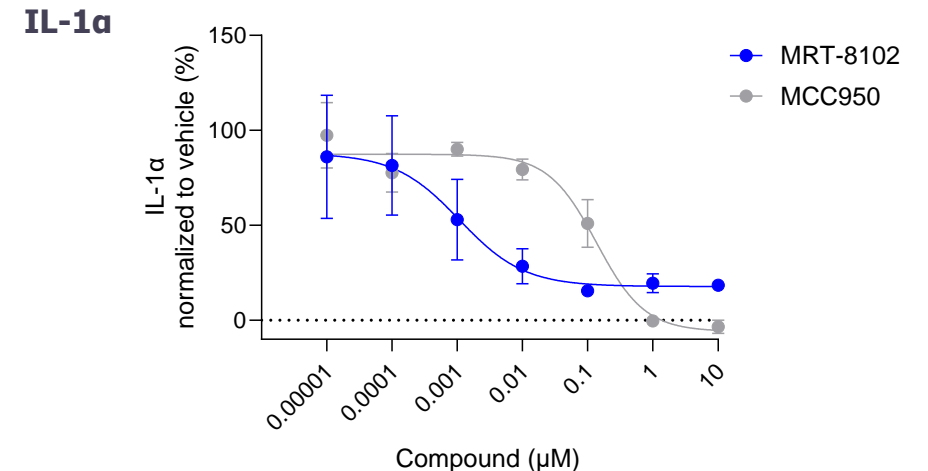
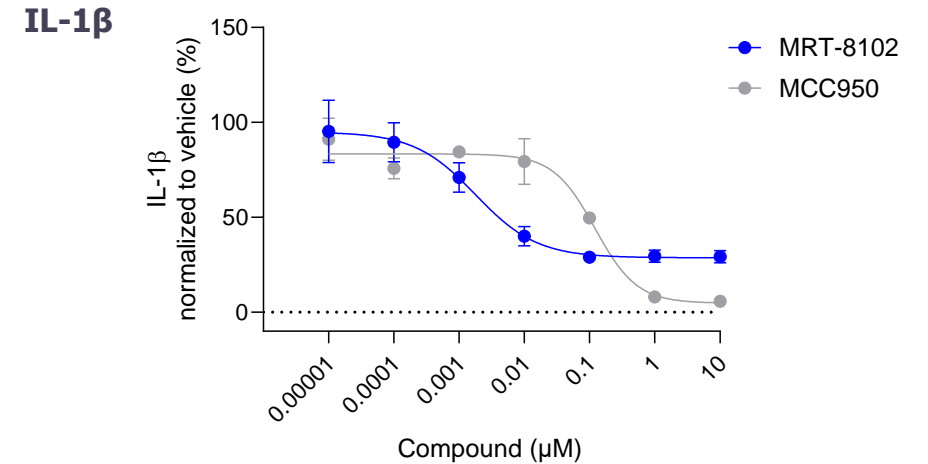


The IL-1 Pathway is Clinically Validated in Pericarditis



- IL-1 β , downstream of NLRP3 activation, amplifies inflammatory cycle
- Colchicine is first line therapy
- Riloncept approved; oral alternatives required

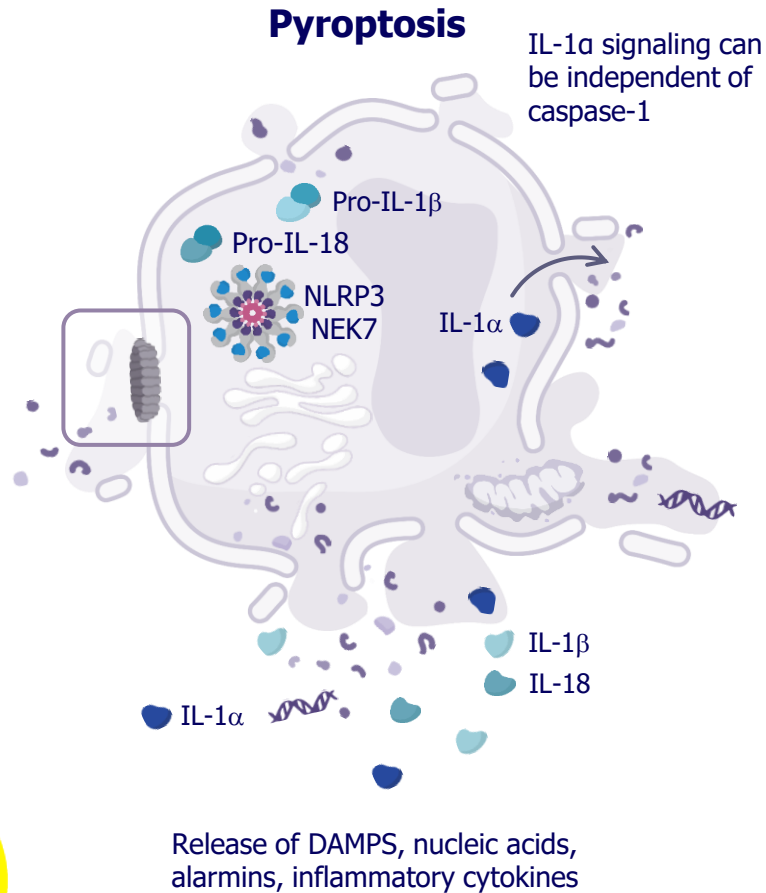
MRT-8102 inhibits release of both IL-1 β and IL-1 α in pyroptosis assay



Human monocyte-derived macrophages LPS + Nigericin stimulation
 Pretreatment with molecular glue degrader (MGD) or NLRP3 inhibitor (NLRP3i)

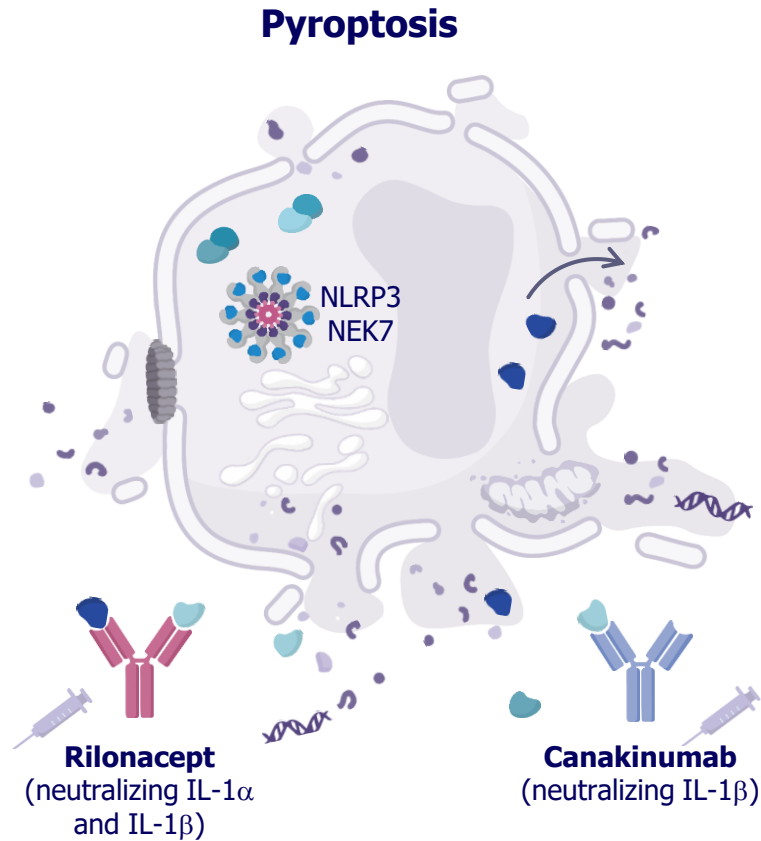
NEK7 MGD Has Potential to Resolve Inflammation by Inhibiting Pyroptosis

NLRP3/NEK7-driven inflammation



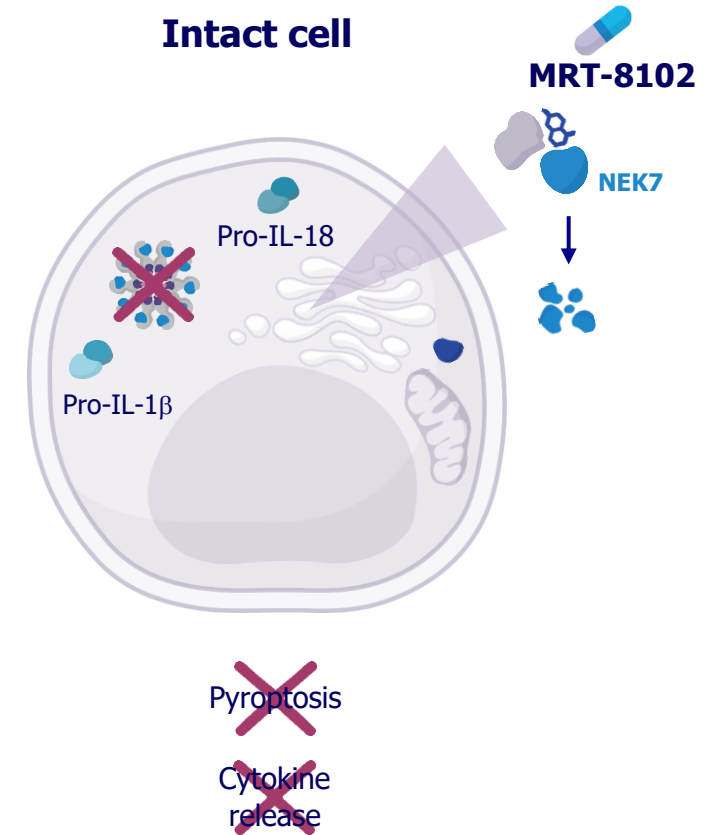
**Full
inflammation**

Inhibition of IL-1 driven inflammation



**Reduced
inflammation**

Resolution of inflammation with NEK7 MGD

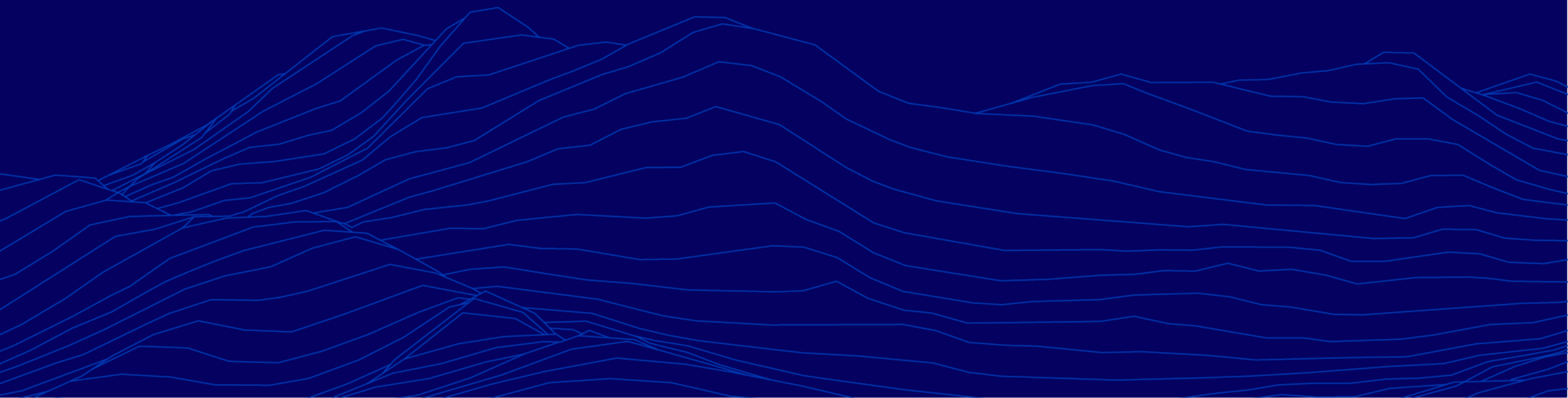


**Aborted
inflammation**



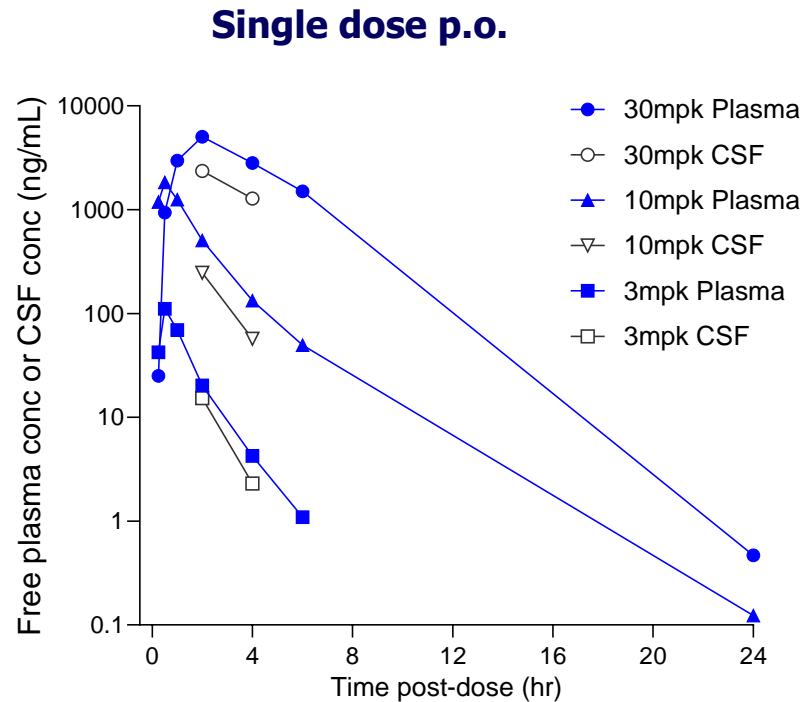
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Future Opportunities



MRT-8102 Displays Blood-brain Barrier Penetration in Cynomolgus Monkey

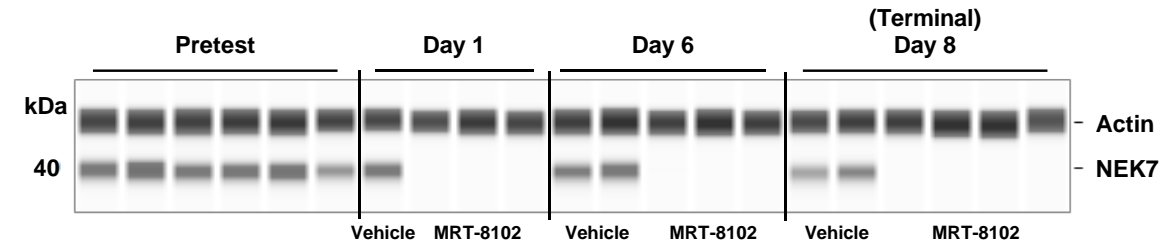
MRT-8102 displays CNS-penetrance in cynomolgus monkey



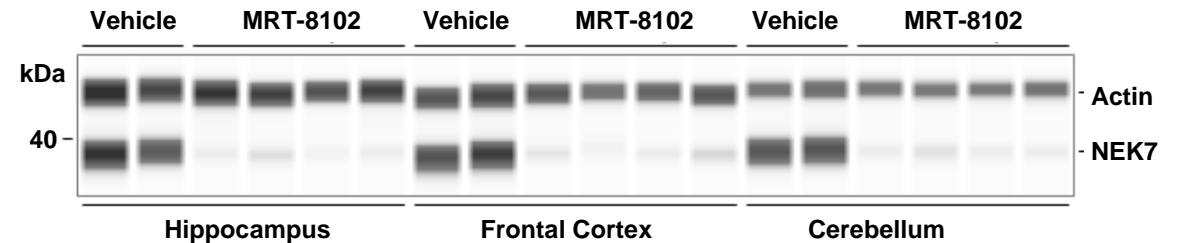
Single-dose MRT-8102 p.o.
n=2 cynomolgus monkey (one male and one female)

Significant NEK7 degradation in various cyno brain regions 24h post treatment

PBMCs



Brain



Daily dose of 30 mg/kg MRT-8102 for 7 days
Analysis on day 8 (24 hr post-final dose) by JESS Simple Western

NLRP3/NEK7 Involvement in a Broad Range of Inflammatory Diseases

Potential for groundbreaking approaches to intractable medical problems



Immuno-cardiology

Treatment + prevention of recurrent pericarditis
Treatment + prevention of acute myocardial infarction
Treatment of myocarditis
Prevention of heart failure



Neuro-immunology

Treatment of Parkinson's disease
Treatment of Alzheimer's disease



Rheumatology

Treatment + prevention of acute gouty arthritis



Metabolism

Treatment + prevention of obesity

Degradation of NEK7 Using an MGD is a Novel Approach to Targeting IL-1 Through the NLRP3 Inflammasome

- Monte Rosa Therapeutics molecular glue degrader MRT-8102 is a selective, potent and durable NEK7 degrader
- NEK7 MGD leads to inhibition of NLRP3 inflammasome *in vitro* and *in vivo*; therapeutic activity in rabbit gout model
- Potential for broad application in inflammatory disorders; NEK7 MGDs with different tissue distribution could address central as well as peripheral inflammatory disorders

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Basel