

# **Discovery and Validation of a Genetic Biomarker for a Triple Reuptake Inhibitor (Liafensine) in TRD**

Wen Luo

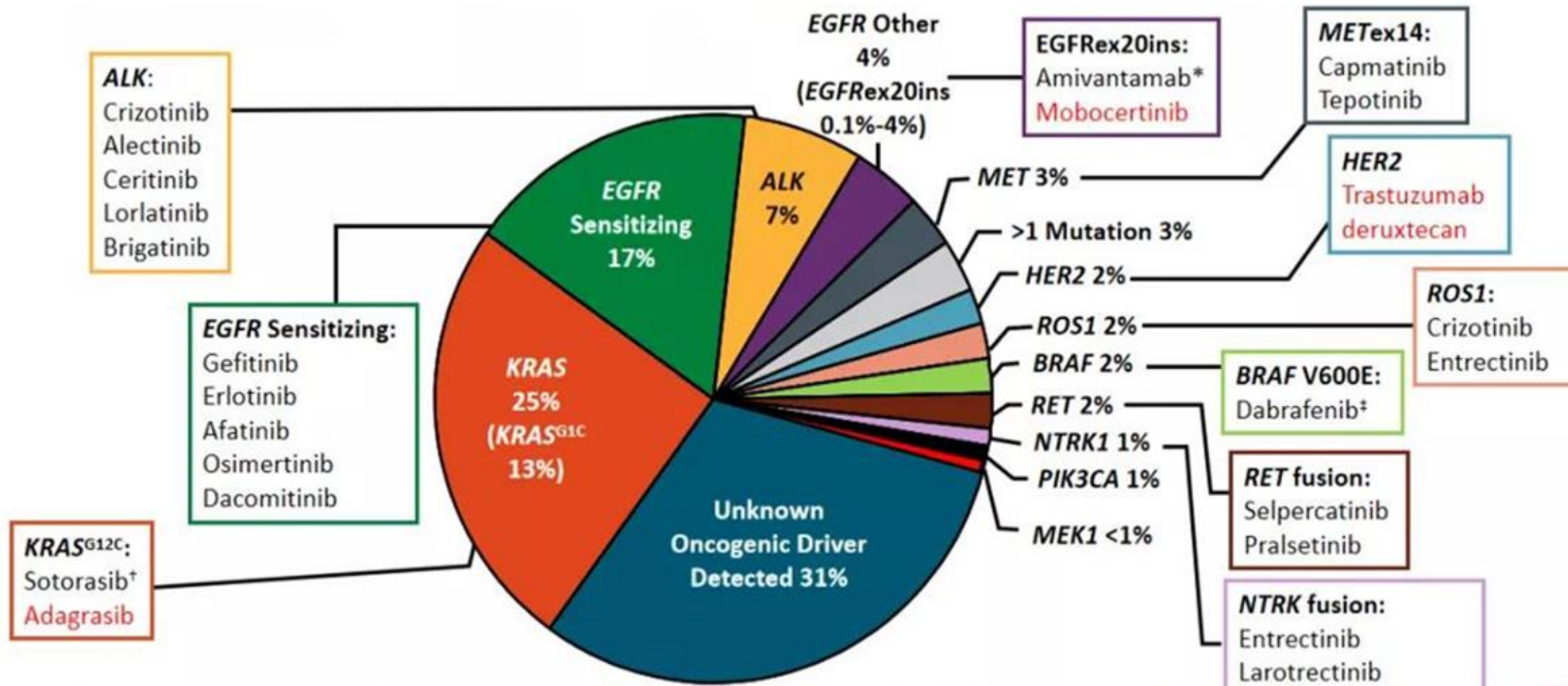


## **Disclosures:**

The Presenter is an employee of Denovo Biopharma

# Biomarkers are the Key to Many New Drug Approvals in Oncology

## Lung Cancer is Treated Differently based on the Biomarkers



LI. JCO. 2013;31:1039. Tsao. JTO. 2016;11:613. Burnett.

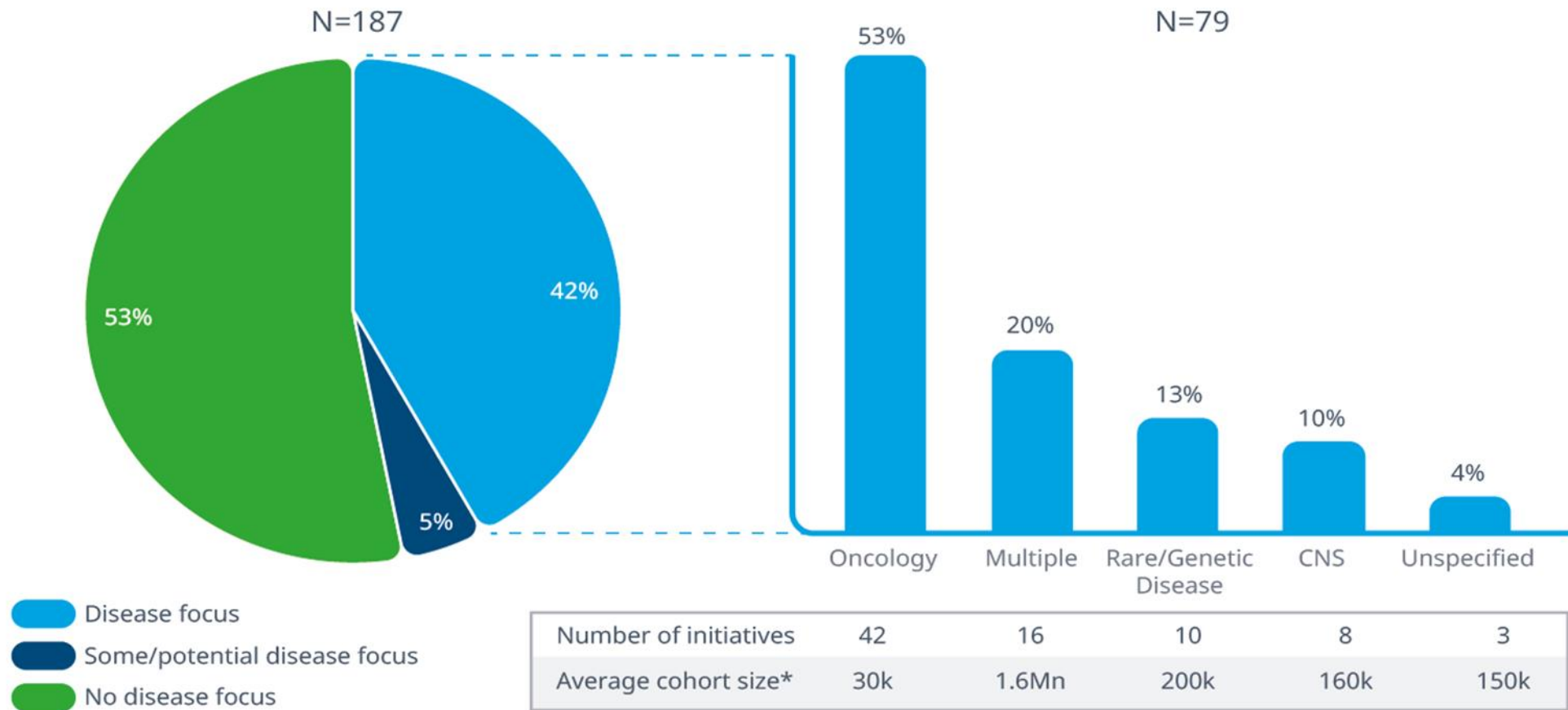
\*Approved after PD on platinum-based CT. <sup>+</sup>Approved after ≥1 prior systemic therapy.

PLoS One. 2021;16:e0247620. Nassar. NEJM. 2021;384:185.\*Approved in combination with trametinib (MEK inhibitor) for BRAF V600E mutation. Slide credit: [clinicaloptions.com](http://clinicaloptions.com)



# Use of Biomarkers in CNS Diseases is Far Less Than in Oncology

Number of Genomics Initiatives by Disease Area Focus



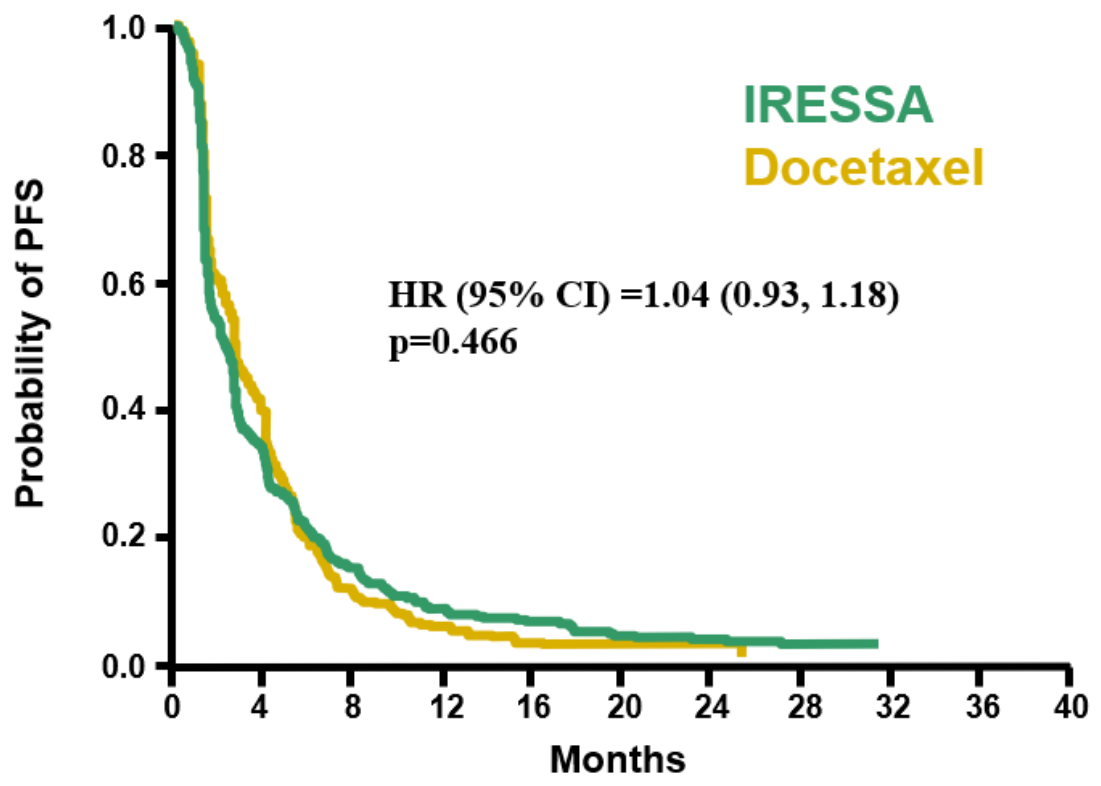
Source: IQVIA Genomic Initiatives Database, Feb 2020

Notes: Average cohort size based on target size first, current size if target unavailable, rounded to nearest 10,000.

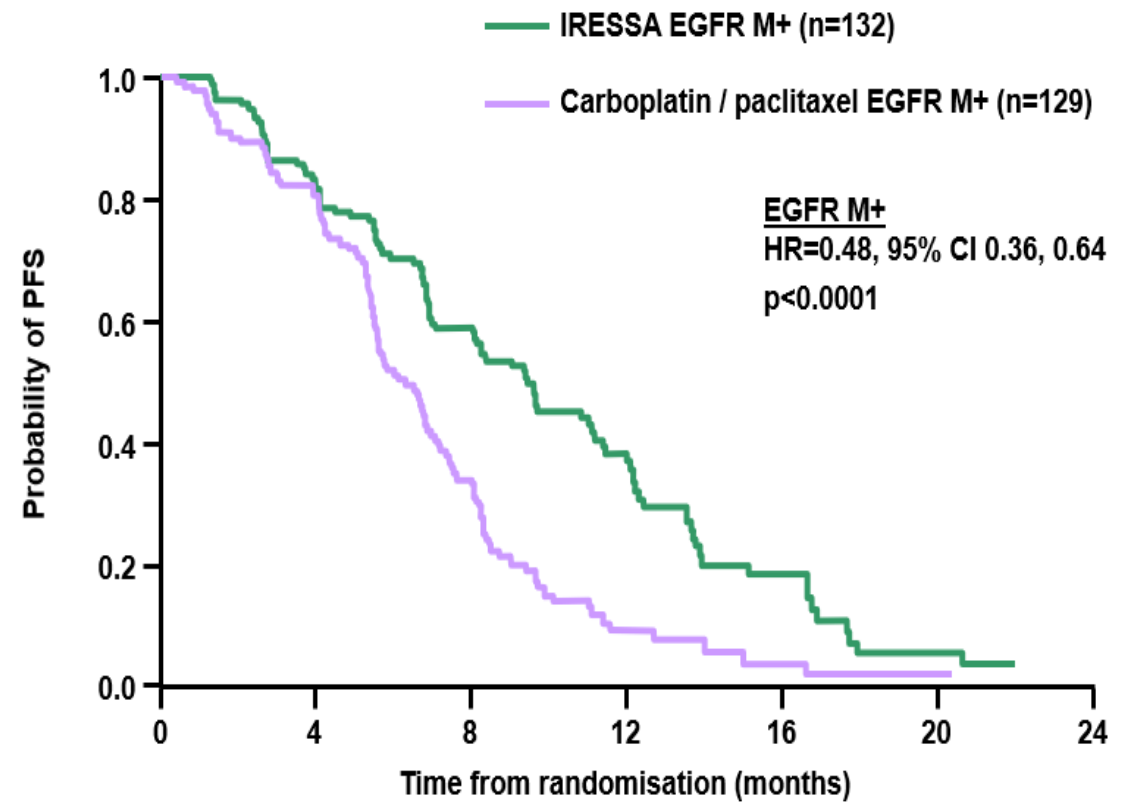
Report: Understanding the Global Landscape of Genomics Initiatives : Progress and Promise, April 2020

# The Journey of Iressa: An EGFR inhibitor for Lung Cancer

### Iressa Failed in General Population



### Iressa Worked Well in EGFR Mutated Patients

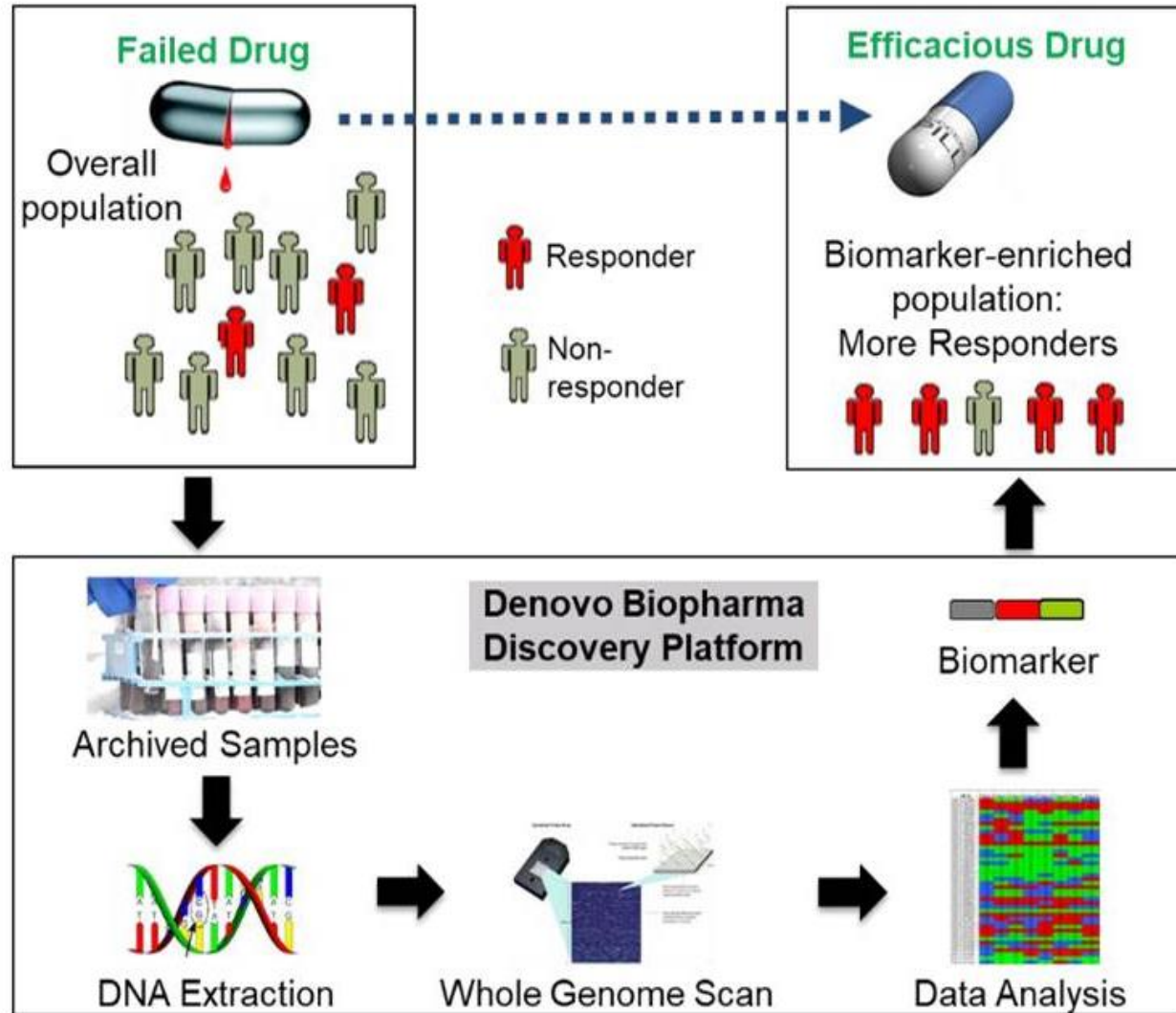


Mok 2009

**A Biomarker (EGFR Mutation) Converted a Failed Drug into a Successful Precision Medicine**

# Our Unique Solution to Biomarker Discovery

*Transforming Failed Drugs into Successful Personalized Medicines*



- Proprietary sample processing procedure using archived patient plasma or other samples

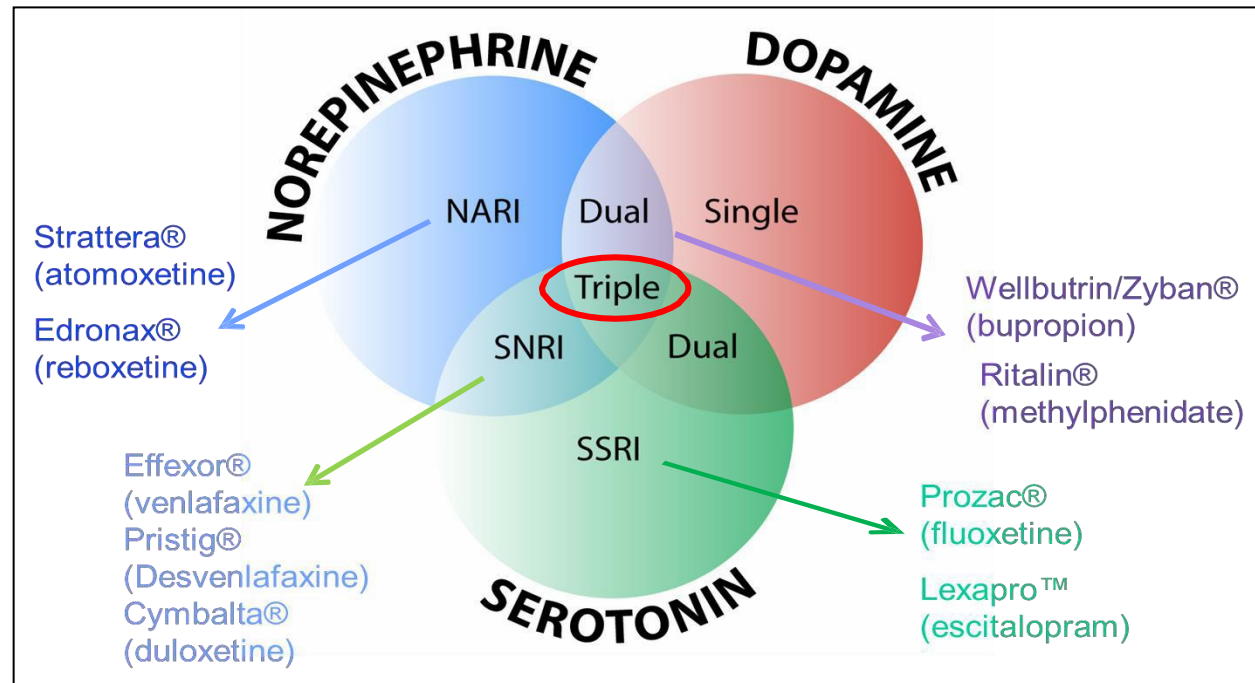
- Proprietary data flow and data analysis algorithm

- Big data/machine learning to predict drug response

- Validation of plausible biomarkers by wet lab



# Monoamine Reuptake Inhibitors for Depression: Why not Target all Three Catecholamine Transporters?



Augmentation of SSRI/SNRI with dopamine modulating therapies may provide improved and/or more rapid antidepressant effect

- Dopamine is involved in centrally-mediated reward responses
- Adding DAT inhibition has potential to offset side effects commonly associated with SSRI/SNRI, including loss of libido

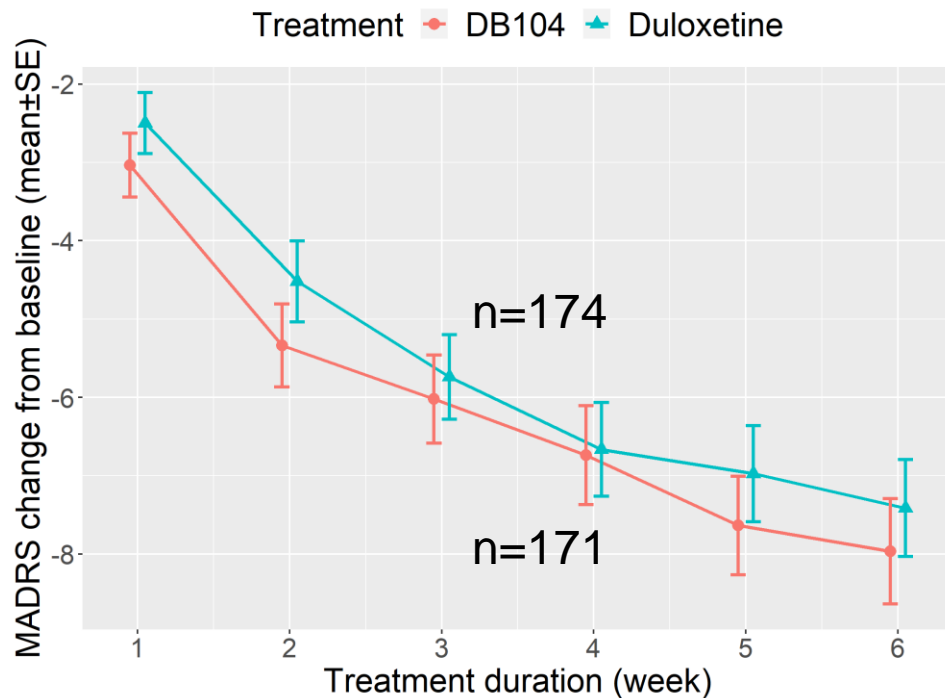
# Liafensine: A Potent, Selective Inhibitor of SERT, NET and DAT

- Liafensine (DB104/AMR-000013/BMS-820836) : Potent selective, oral, once-daily, triple monoamine reuptake inhibitor; Binds serotonin (SERT) dopamine (DAT) and norepinephrine (NET) transporter in single nanomolar range (1 nM – 8nM)
- BMS assessed the clinical safety of liafensine in 14 completed studies, including 11 Phase 1 and 3 Phase 2 studies. Well tolerated in healthy volunteers and treatment resistant depression (TRD) patients
- The efficacy of liafensine in TRD was evaluated in two phase 2 studies: CN162006 and CN162007

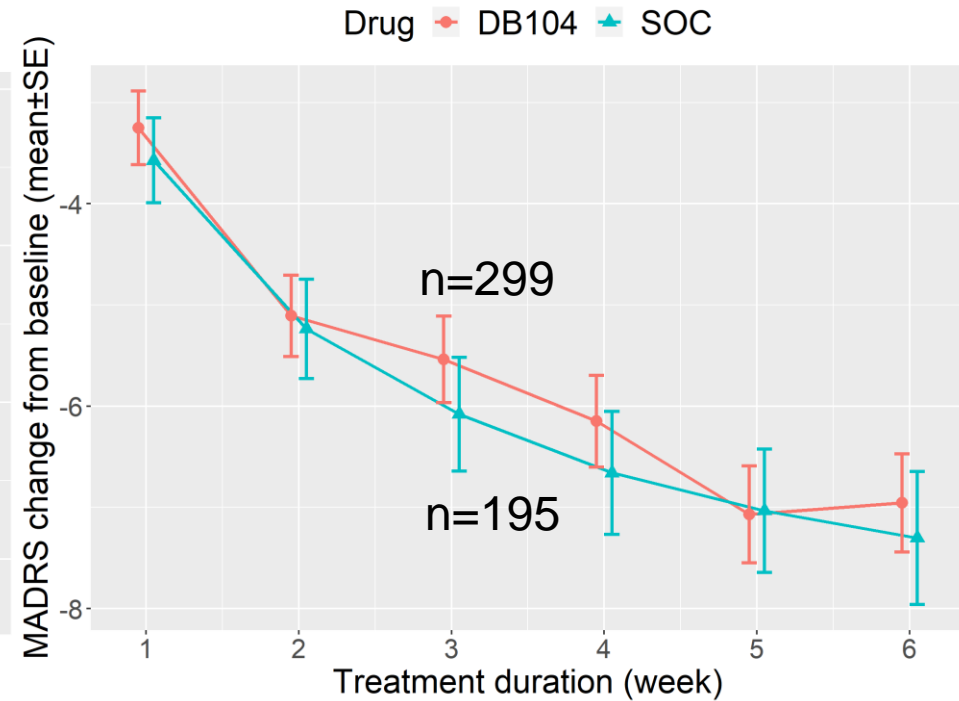


# Two BMS Phase 2b Studies Failed to Demonstrate Liafensine's (DB104) Efficacy Comparing to SOC

## Study CN162-006

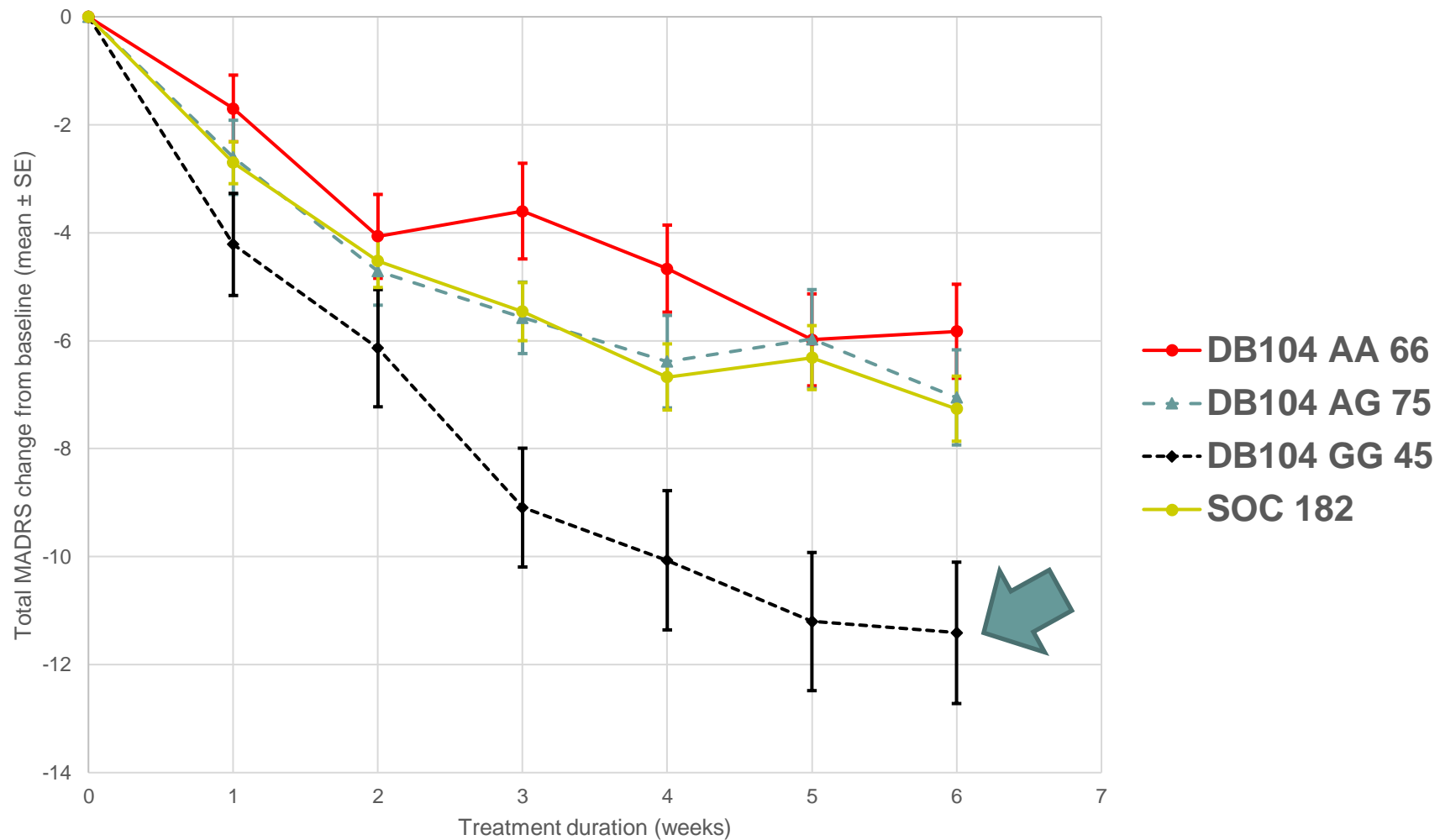


## Study CN162-007



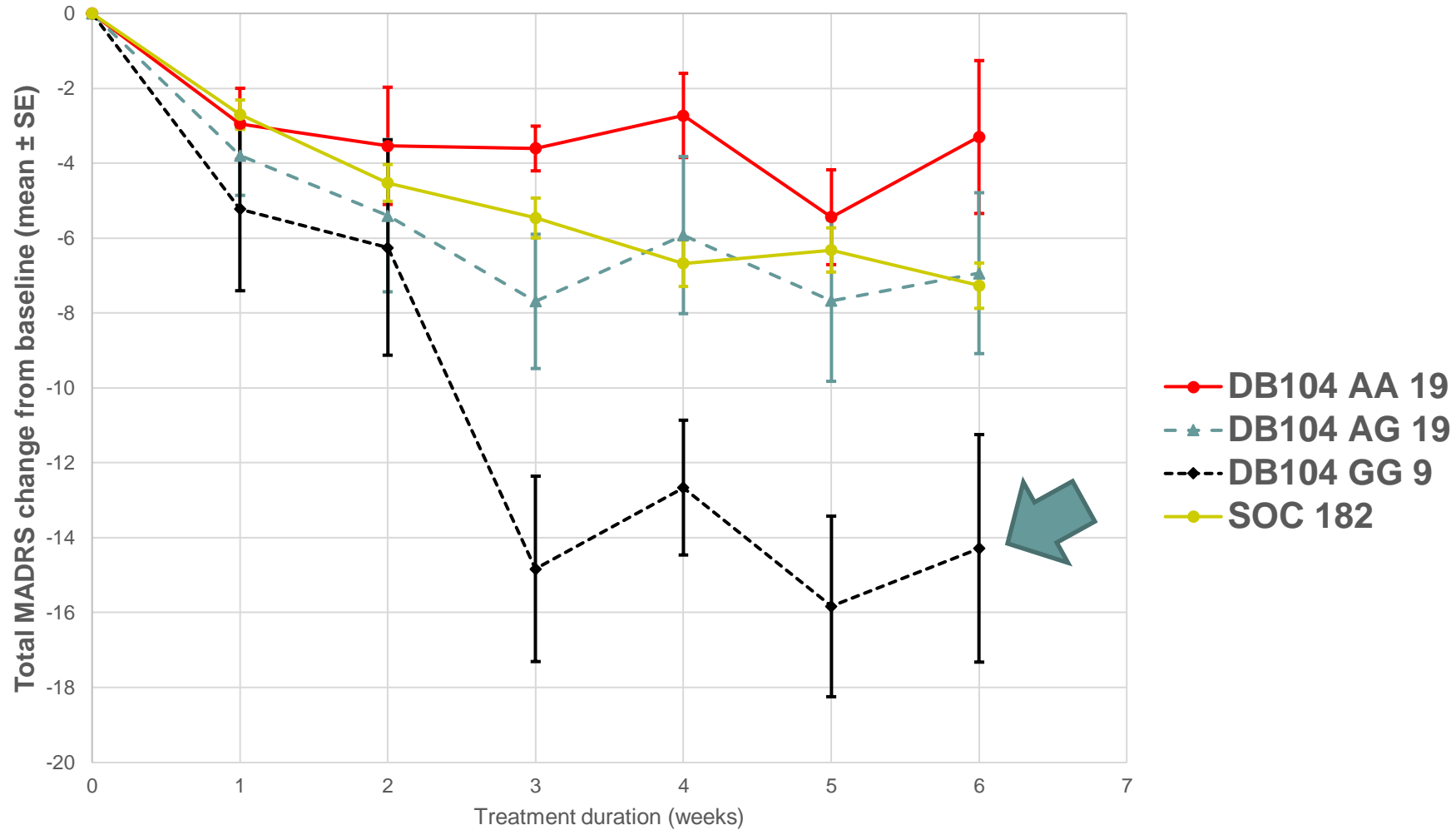
No apparent **difference** between  
**Liafensine** and SOC

# DGM4 Biomarker Discovery Set: MADRS Score Change by DGM4 Genotypes



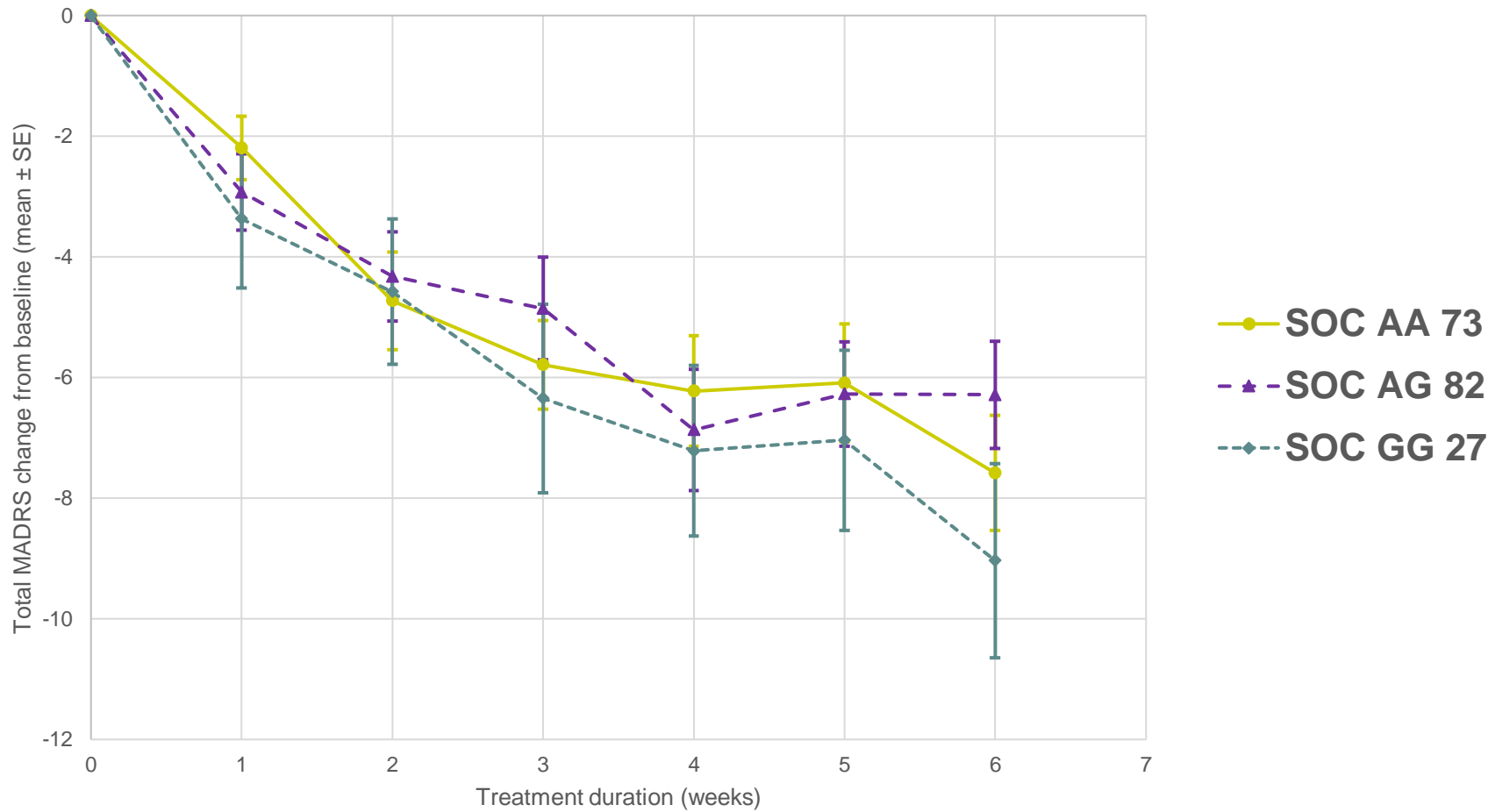
Patients with GG exhibited better efficacy vs those with AA or AG in Liafensine arm and SOC arm

# Biomarker DGM4 Validation Set: MADRS Score Change by DGM4 Genotypes



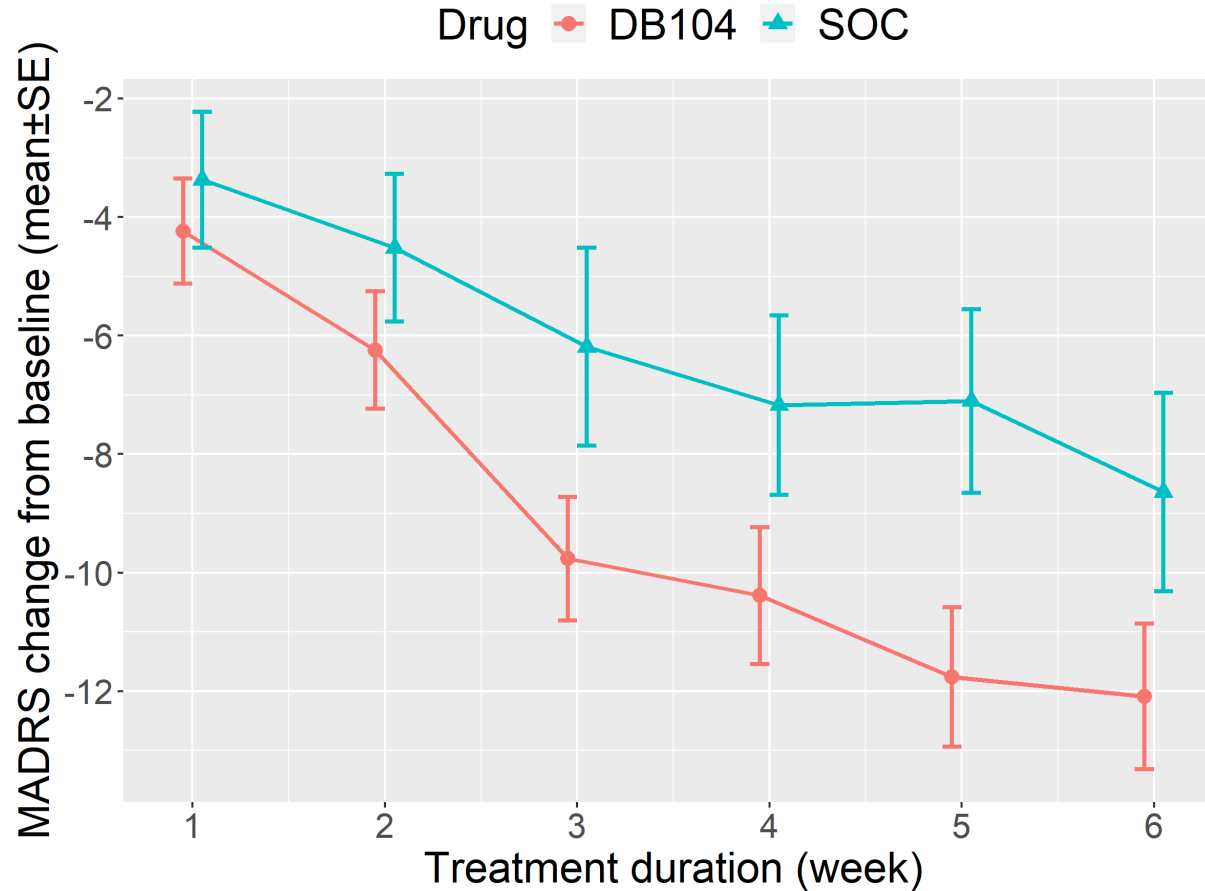
**Discovery Set results were  
replicated in this validation set**

# MADRS Score Change by DGM4 Genotypes in Control Arm (SOC: Duloxetine/Escitalopram)



**DGM4 is a specific biomarker for liafensine, not for SOC  
Not a prognostic biomarker for TRD**

# Comparison of Liafensine (DB104) vs SOC in TRD Patients with GG Genotype (DGM4+)



SOC (standard of care):  
Duloxetine/Escitalopram

Drug	Patients (n)
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SOC 27

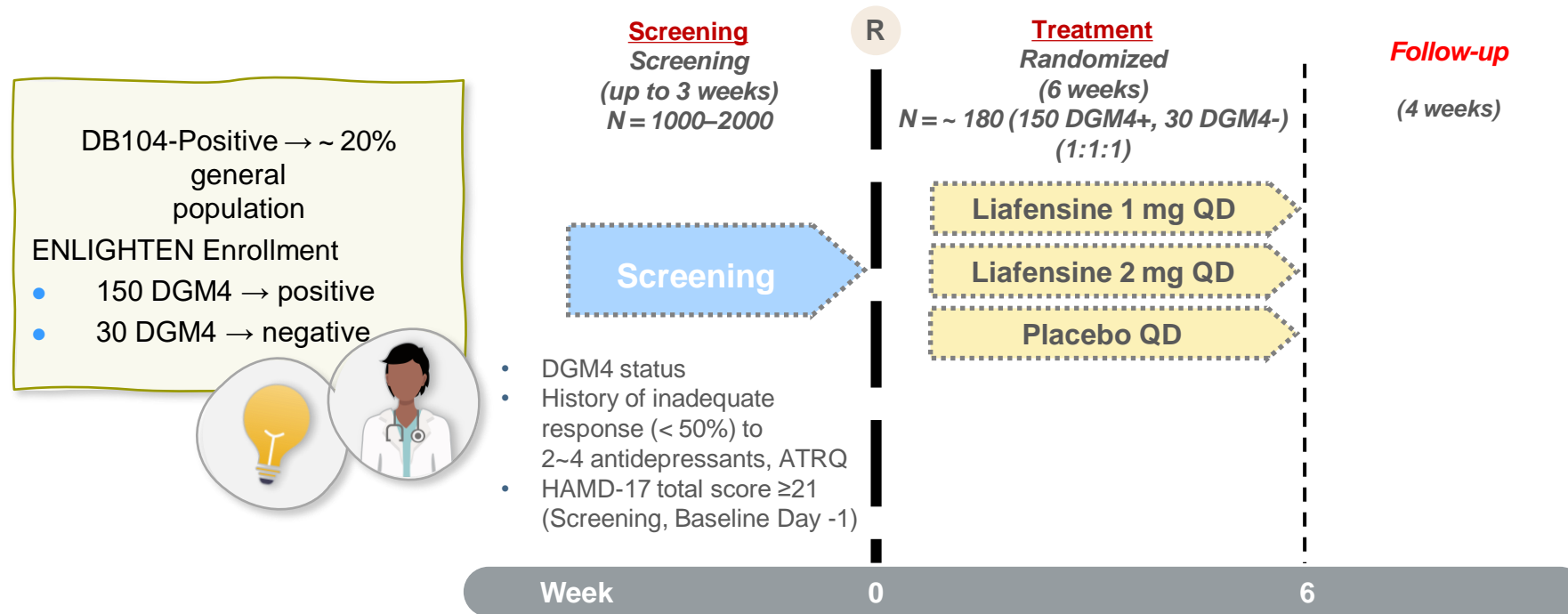
Liafensine 54

(p = 0.02)

# Prevalence of DGM4+ GG Biomarker in Different Ethnic Groups

Ethnicity/Region	DGM4-positive (%)
Eastern Asia	21.4
European	18.1
Puerto Rican	9.6
Mexican descend	4.7
African Ancestry	1.6

# A Prospective Global Phase 2b Study: A Biomarker-Guided, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Efficacy and Safety Study of Liafensine in Patients with Treatment-Resistant Depression - **ENLIGHTEN**



Countries: US, China, Canada

Number of subjects enrolled: 180 (5:1 DGM4+ to DGM4- ratio)

Number of sites: 54



# ENLIGHTEN Objectives and Endpoints

***Efficacy — Focus on DGM4-positive TRD subjects — Baseline to Day 42***



- To demonstrate DB104 is superior to placebo — MADRS



- Global severity — CGI-S
- Global improvement — CGI-I
- Disability assessment — SDS



- Response rate — MADRS  $\geq$  50% improvement
- Remission rate — MADRS  $\leq$  10
- Others



- Adverse events, laboratory findings, vital signs

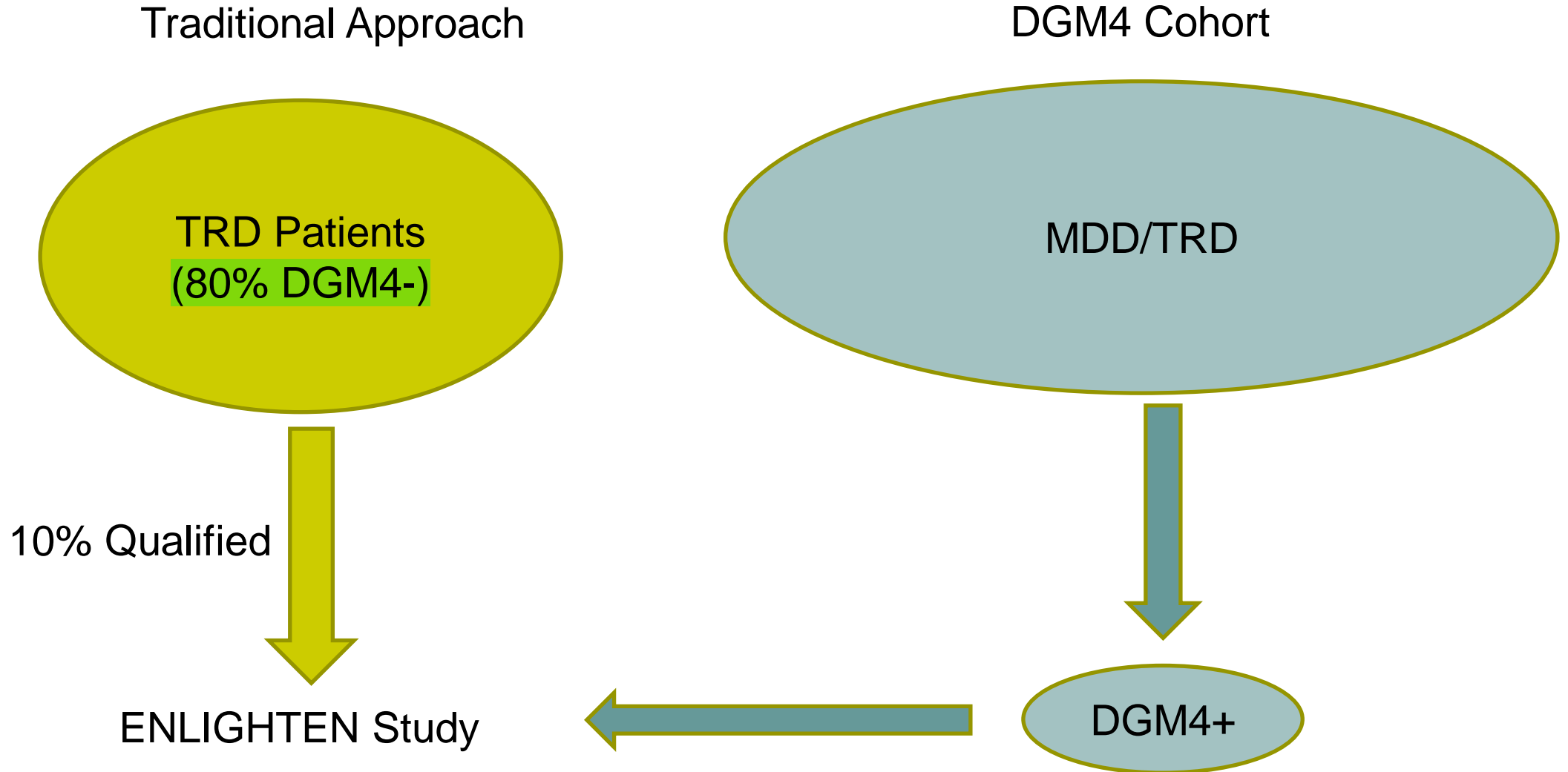
# ENLIGHTEN: Conducted in more than 50 Clinical Centers

- A Global Phase 2b Study
  - US: 38 Sites
  - Canada: 3 Sites
  - China: 16 Sites

## Challenges in Biomarker Guided Study – High Screen Failure Rate

- Total Screened: 1967 Patients
  - Screen Failed: 1788 Patients (91%)
  - Enrolled: 197 Patients

# To Overcome Enrollment Challenge: DGM4 Cohort Program



# Gene Registry: Biomarker Testing at Home



iMatchDepression

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Profile Info



4

Consent



5

Review Finish

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## Precision Medicine for Depression



Do you suffer from depression?



Does your depression treatment help?



Want to have a specific gene tested to see whether a new investigational drug helps you?

Two-thirds of people with depression don't benefit from the first antidepressant they try, and more than 30% of people don't respond to several treatment attempts. The purpose of this Biomarker test is to address this need for individuals who have not found benefits from Anti-Depressant Medications. In this

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**Thank You**

**Questions?**