

# Developing Advanced therapies for rare diseases in EU: opportunities and challenges in the experience of a Charity

Michela Gabaldo,  
Head Alliance Management & Regulatory Affairs

PAVIA, October 27<sup>th</sup> 2018

FONDAZIONE BENZI - XI FORESIGHT TRAINING COURSE

FONDAZIONE



The San Raffaele Telethon Institute for Gene Therapy (**SR-TIGET**) is a joint venture between Fondazione Telethon and Ospedale San Raffaele (OSR).

**ADA-SCID gene therapy (Strimvelis)** was licensed to GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) in 2010 and received European marketing authorization in 2016.

**Wiskott-Aldrich Syndrome (WAS)** and **Metachromatic Leukodystrophy (MLD)** gene therapies were licensed to GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) in 2014.

**B-thalassemia (BTHAL) gene therapy** was licensed to GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) in 2017.

Gene therapies for MLD, WAS and BTHAL are still in development, they are not approved for use in patients outside of clinical trial or pre-approved compassionate use.

Strimvelis, WAS, MLD and BTHAL were licensed to Orchard Therapeutics (OTL) in April 2018.



**EVERY MINUTE OF EVERY DAY,  
TEN CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD  
ARE BORN WITH A RARE GENETIC DISEASE.  
TOMMASO IS ONE OF THEM.**

FONDAZIONE



# Fondazione Telethon: Mission & Vision

Uma



- **Fondazione Telethon** is one of the **major Italian biomedical charity** focused on **genetic diseases**
- **Founded in 1990** at the behest of a group of **patients**
- Supported by donations from the general public through **fund raising**

• *Advance biomedical research towards the cure of genetic diseases*

## OUR MISSION

## OUR VISION

• *Convert the results of excellent, selected and sustained research into available therapies*

## KEY FIGURES 1990-2017

- 498 M€ research investment
- 2,629 research grants and activities
- 1,611 PIs awarded
- 571 genetic diseases studied
- Three intramural institutes
- Extramural funding programs in Italy

**Excellence-driven grant allocation**

## R&D up to available therapies

- **19** orphan drug designations
- **92** patients treated with gene therapy
- **1** therapy on the market

# Enabling factors for competitive/ transformative research

- **Excellent fundamental and pre-clinical research**

- Stringent selection system (funding to max. top 20% proposals)
- Adequate funding
- Monitoring research progression and results



- **Identifying projects with translational potential**

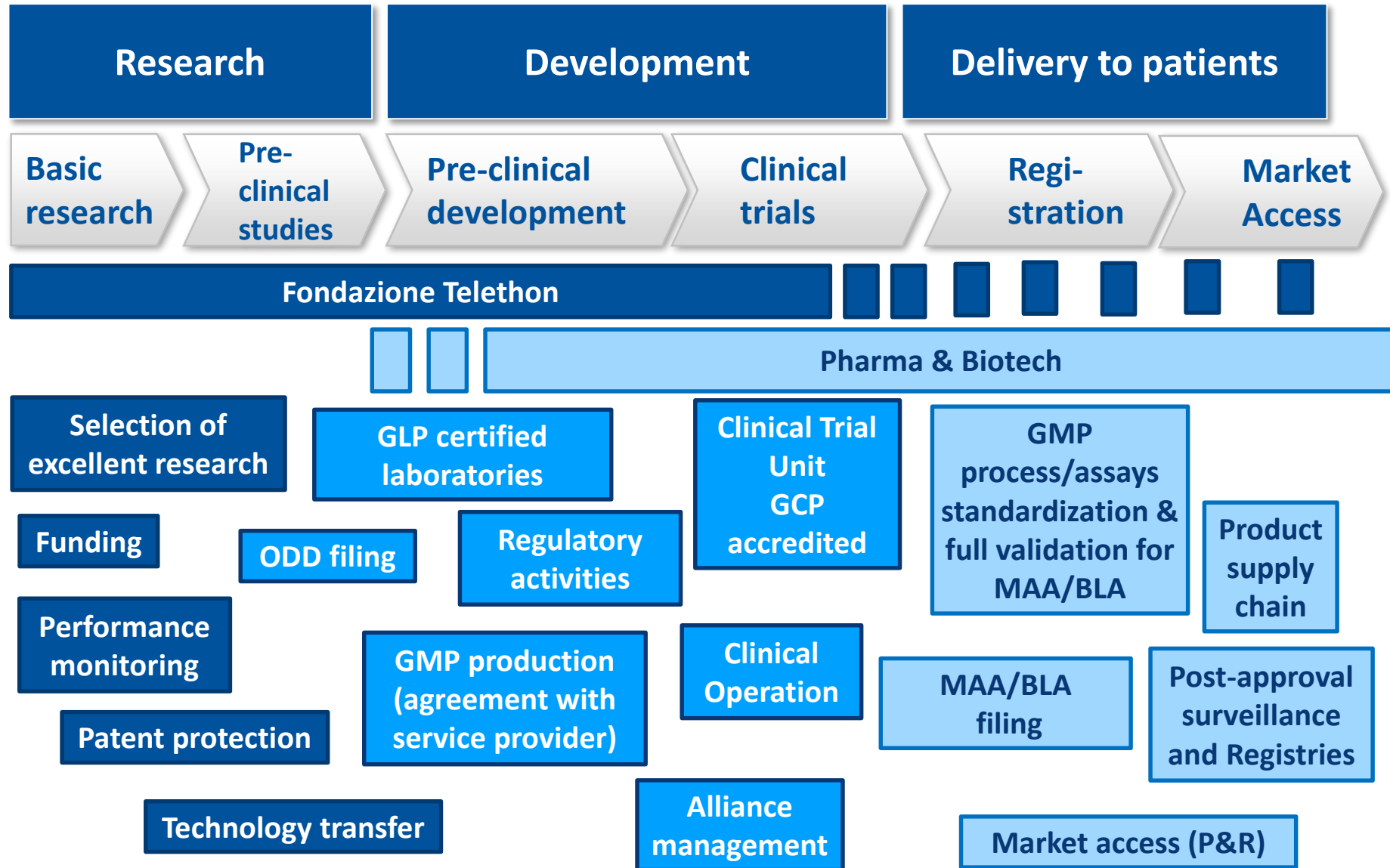


- **Effective translational research**

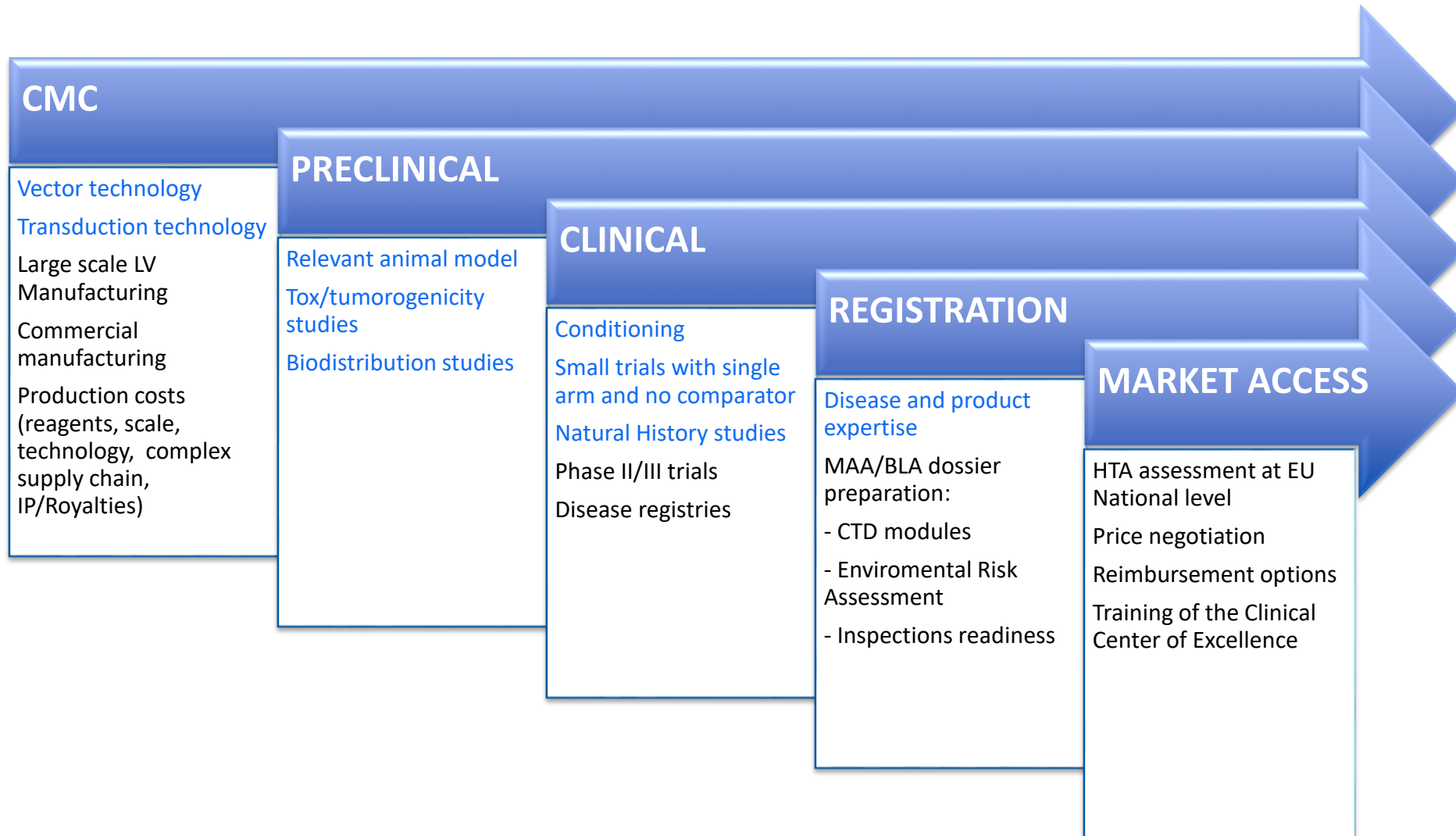
- Intellectual property protection and technology transfer
- Management of strategic partnership/alliances
- Management of clinical trials
- Management of regulatory affairs
- Competences in drug development



# The research development pipeline: a collaborative model



# Challenges faced from Product Basic Research up to Patient Availability



Blue: Telethon expertise

Black: Pharma expertise

# We team with industrial partners:

## Our Major Alliances

FONDAZIONE



	Start year	Institute	Scope	Deal Structure
	2018	TELETHON INSTITUTE FOR GENE THERAPY	Retroviral-based ex vivo gene therapy for <b>ADA-SCID</b> , and lentivirus based for <b>WAS, MLD, beta thalassemia</b> and 3 other diseases.	Upfront:10M€ MS & Royalties
	2011	TELETHON INSTITUTE OF GENETICS AND MEDICINE	Small molecule drug candidates for <b>Lysosomal Storage disorders</b>	R&D MS
	2012	TELETHON INSTITUTE OF GENETICS AND MEDICINE	Gene therapy treatment	<p>92 pts treated with gene therapy for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ ADA-SCID</li> <li>✓ Metachromatic Leukodystrophy</li> <li>✓ Wiskott Aldrich</li> <li>✓ Beta thalassemia</li> <li>✓ MPS VI</li> <li>✓ MPSI</li> </ul>
	2018	TELETHON INSTITUTE FOR GENE THERAPY	Lentivirus-based	
	2016	TELETHON INSTITUTE FOR GENE THERAPY	Genome editing of <b>hematopoietic stem cell (HSC)</b> and <b>T cell</b> therapies	Undisclosed
	2016	TELETHON INSTITUTE OF GENETICS AND MEDICINE	Undisclosed	Undisclosed

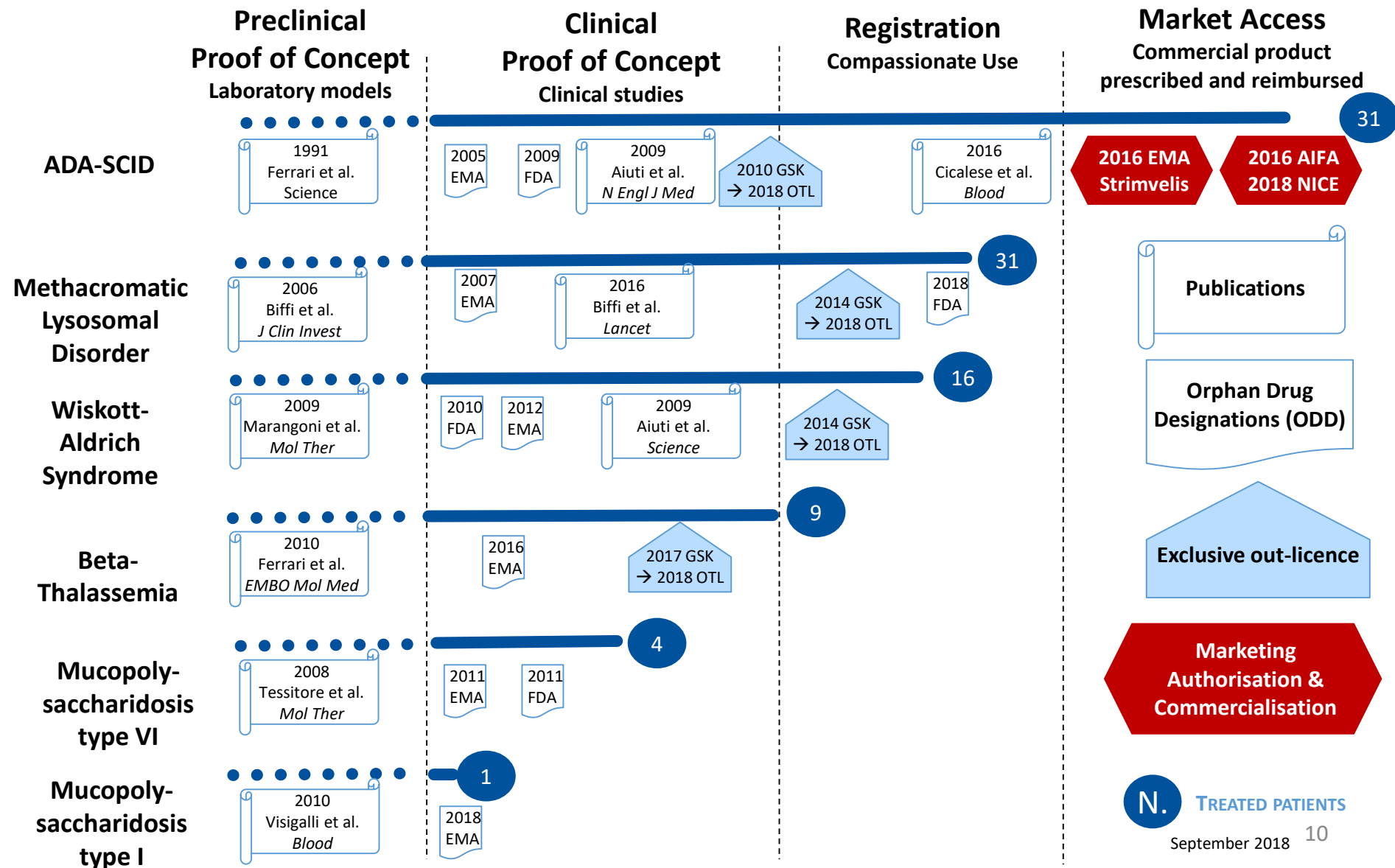



# The pillars of Fondazione Telethon's industrial agreements

The agreements between Fondazione Telethon and industrial Partners



# Fondazione Telethon Gene Therapy Pipeline



A photograph of a family of three in a hospital room. A woman with long brown hair, wearing a brown short-sleeved shirt and blue jeans, sits on the left. A young boy with short brown hair, wearing a yellow polo shirt and blue jeans, sits in a blue metal walker in the center. A man with short brown hair, wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt and light-colored pants, sits on the right. They are all looking directly at the camera with serious expressions. The background shows a hospital room with a bed, a Mario doll, and a teddy bear.

**“TELETHON SHALL EXIST UNTIL WE  
WRITE THE WORD ‘CURABLE’ NEXT TO  
THE NAMES OF ALL GENETIC  
DISEASES.”**

*Susanna Agnelli  
Founder of Telethon*

FONDAZIONE





- Strimvelis is an autologous CD34+ enriched cell fraction that contains CD34+ cells transduced with retroviral vector that encodes for the human ADA cDNA sequence from human haematopoietic stem/progenitor (CD34+) cells

- Strimvelis is indicated for the **treatment of patients** with severe combined immunodeficiency due to adenosine deaminase deficiency (**ADA-SCID**), **for whom no suitable human leukocyte antigen (HLA)-matched related stem cell donor is available**

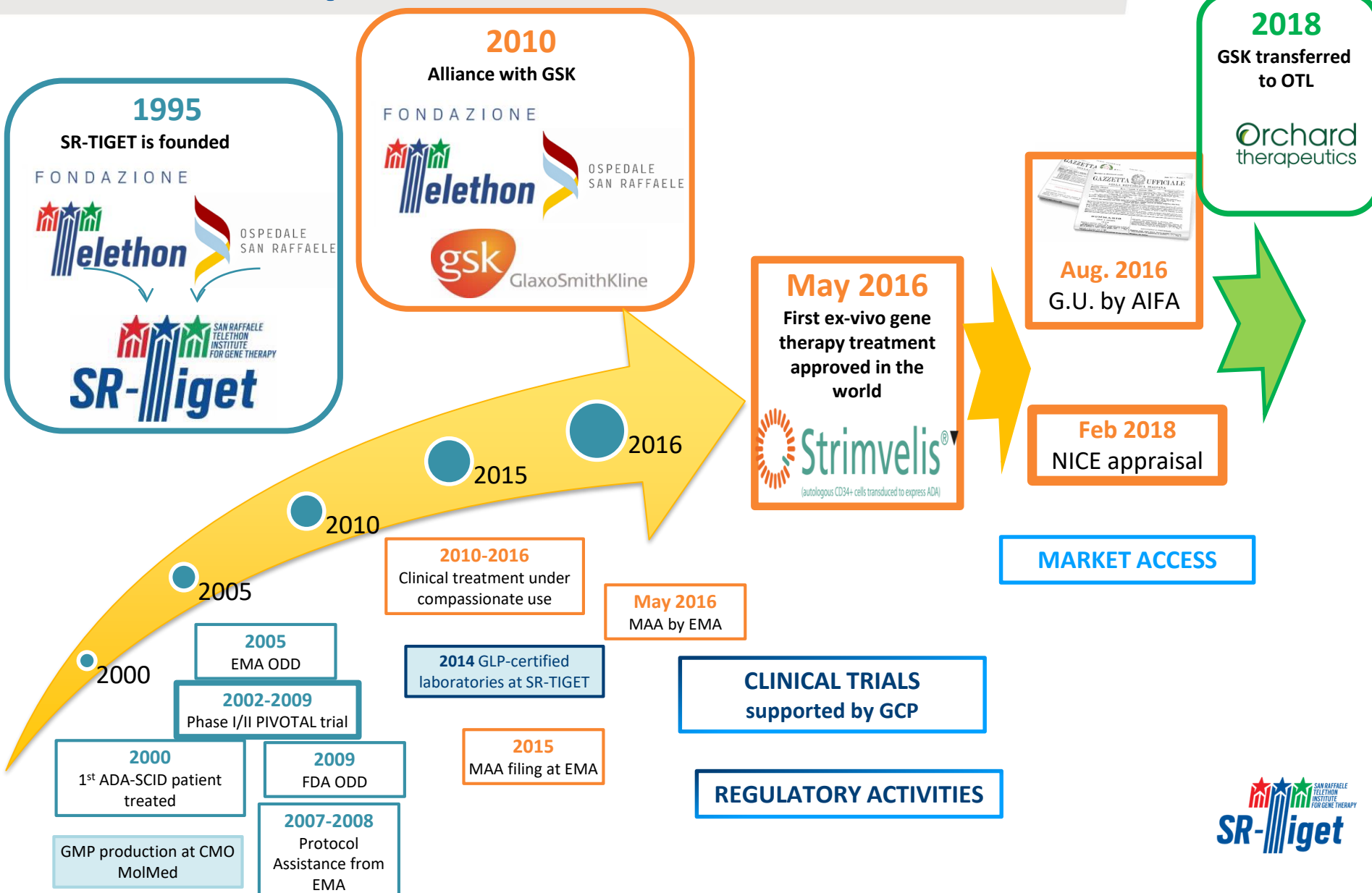
**FIRST EX-VIVO  
STEM CELL GENE  
THERAPY  
APPROVED WW**

- Strimvelis can provide **long-term clinical benefits** with a **single therapeutic intervention**, and avoids the risk of graft rejection and GvHD

- A **long-term registry** has been set up to monitor the long-term safety and efficacy of Strimvelis for at least 15 years on 50 patients

# PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP: Strimvelis® path

FONDAZIONE



# Gene therapy with Strimvelis®



## The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ESTABLISHED IN 1812

JANUARY 29, 2009

VOL. 360 NO. 5

### Gene Therapy for Immunodeficiency Due to Adenosine Deaminase Deficiency

#### Regular Article



Alessandro Aiuti, M.D., Ph.D., Federica Cattaneo, M.D., Stefania Giannelli, M.D., Barbara Cassani, Ph.D., Luciano Callegaro, R.N., Samantha Mirolo, B.Sc., Immacolata Brigida, B.Sc., Antonella Tabucchi, M.D., Martha Eibl, M.D., Memet Aker, M.D., Shimon Slavin, M.D., Hamoud Alotaibi, M.D., Alina Ferster, M.D., Andrea Duppenhaler, M.D., Luigi Notara, M.D., Rebecca H. Buckley, M.D., Marco Bregni, M.D., Sarah Marktel, M.D., Maria Pia Cicalese, M.D., Fabio Ciceri, M.D., Roberto Miniero, M.D., Claudio Bordignon, M.D.

#### GENE THERAPY

### Update on the safety and efficacy of retroviral gene therapy for immunodeficiency due to adenosine deaminase deficiency

Maria Pia Cicalese,<sup>1,2,\*</sup> Francesca Ferrua,<sup>1,3,\*</sup> Laura Castagnaro,<sup>1</sup> Roberta Pajno,<sup>2,3</sup> Federica Barzaghi,<sup>1,2</sup> Stefania Giannelli,<sup>1</sup> Francesca Dionisio,<sup>1</sup> Immacolata Brigida,<sup>1</sup> Marco Bonopane,<sup>1</sup> Miriam Casiraghi,<sup>1,2</sup> Antonella Tabucchi,<sup>4</sup> Filippo Carlucci,<sup>4</sup> Eyal Grunebaum,<sup>5</sup> Mehdi Adeli,<sup>6</sup> Robbert G. Bredius,<sup>7</sup> Jennifer M. Puck,<sup>8</sup> Polina Stepensky,<sup>9</sup> Ilhan Tezcan,<sup>10</sup> Katie Rolfe,<sup>11</sup> Erika De Boever,<sup>11</sup> Rickey R. Reinhardt,<sup>11</sup> Jonathan Appleby,<sup>11</sup> Fabio Ciceri,<sup>3,12</sup> Maria Grazia Roncarolo,<sup>1,3,13,14</sup> and Alessandro Aiuti<sup>1-3</sup>

- Data on first **18 patients** for **EMA filing**
- Most adverse reactions considered to be potentially related to busulfan conditioning or to immune reconstitution
- To date **no leukemic** transformation observed
- Overall **24 patients treated with investigational product** in trials/compassionate use/hospital exemption)
- **7 patients treated with commercial Strimvelis**
- **All alive, longest follow up 18 years**



# OSR as sole treatment center: criteria & implications

FONDAZIONE



- **“Fresh” drug:** 6 hours shelf-life
- **Complex** process
- **MolMed** is the only AUTHORIZED and REGISTERED production site => close to the hospital
- Experienced **medical equipe:**  
in ADASCID patients management  
In ADASCID patients treatment with ex-vivo Gene Therapy
- **JACIE** accredited clinical centre (HSCT) and **CNT** (Italian Competent Authority per Tissue Directive)



- *The **Patient travels** to the Centre of Excellence*
- ***Trans-border European Legislation** applies for EU patients (**Form S2**), then OSR is reimbursed through Lombardia Region*

# STRIMVELIS® TREATMENT: THE PATIENT'S JOURNEY

FONDAZIONE



5. Long-term follow-up

4. In Milan –  
preparation, treatment



1. Clinical validation/  
consent

2. Funding

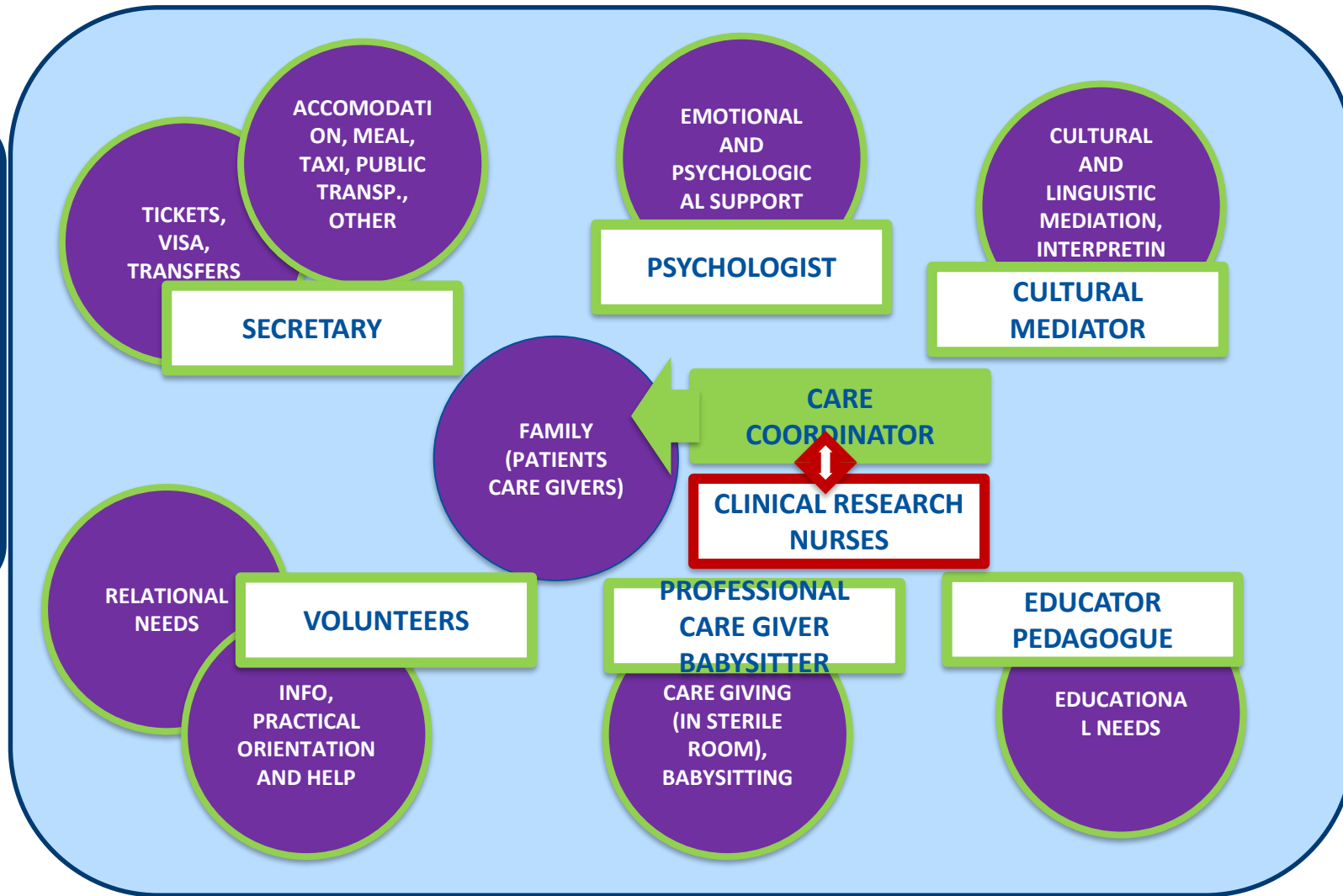
3. Preparation and travel

**STRIMVELIS®:  
INNOVATIVE AND  
COMPLEX  
TREATMENT PATH**

# “Just like home” program: mapped needs and people involved in the project

A **multidisciplinary team** works to facilitate the access to this therapy by **helping to remove**, where needed and possible, **any road-block leading to the gene therapy treatment**

Change of  
paradigm:  
The  
**PATIENT  
TRAVELS -  
NOT the  
DRUG**





FONDAZIONE



## **Parte il Fondo Sofinnova Telethon primo fondo italiano dedicato al biotech**

- **Raccolti più di 80 milioni di euro da investitori pubblici e privati. La piattaforma ITAtech – joint venture tra CDP e FEI – vi ha destinato 40 milioni di euro. A questi si aggiungono più di 40 milioni provenienti dal mercato. La raccolta continua.**
- **Il Fondo è frutto di una partnership fra Sofinnova Partners, società di venture capital leader a livello internazionale specializzata nelle bioscienze, e Fondazione Telethon, charity biomedica riconosciuta dal MIUR e punto di riferimento per la lotta contro le malattie genetiche rare, e si pone l'obiettivo di fondare e finanziare 15/20 aziende biotecnologiche Italiane**

# KEY FUND TERMS

- **€75m to €100m** fund managed by Sofinnova Partners
- Dedicated to **Italy**, focused on **rare/genetic** diseases
- **Strategic partnership** with Fondazione Telethon
- Experienced **dedicated team** with complementary skills (TT & VC)
- **15-20** investments in a period of 5 years: 10-15 seeds, 4-5 series A
- Maximum investment size **€10m**

# MAXIMIZING COMPLEMENTARITY

FONDAZIONE



## THE 3 Is OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

FONDAZIONE



**SOFINNOVA**  
PARTNERS FOR LIFE

### IDENTIFY

- ▶ Capillary knowledge of the Italian research system
- ▶ Access to the best in class researchers nationwide
- ▶ Capability to guide institutes and researchers toward technology transfer

### INCUBATE

- ▶ Sharp focus on early stage research projects with the highest commercial potential
- ▶ Bring to Proof of Concept via dedicated seed investments

### INVEST

- ▶ Invest in the most promising and successful seed projects
- ▶ Structure broad international Series A
- ▶ Develop management teams with strong domain expertise



# CONCLUSIONS

- ❑ 20 year of Telethon Research has delivered remarkable results.
- ❑ The Italian Collaborative model among Charity/Academia, Pharma, Regulators has been successful in delivering Innovation and Advance Therapies to all the EU and ex-EU eligible patients in medical need.
- ❑ The Model has been mapped, tested and validated: IT WORKS.
- ❑ STRIMVELIS® is available to all the patients in need through the current Cross-Boarder Legislation.
- ❑ Telethon is exploring a new model – VC.

# TAKE HOME MESSAGES

- ❑ Developing therapies for ultra-rare diseases remains a huge challenge.
- ❑ Profitability of therapies for ultra-rare diseases maybe significantly lower than “standard” drugs.
- ❑ New drug development to be focused on compelling unmet needs (particularly when orphan drug designation is pursued).

# Acknowledgements



*Referring Physicians worldwide*

*All the patients and their families*





**THANK YOU**