



## ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

### Actinogen CEO presents on emerging oral Alzheimer's Disease therapies at the National Dementia Conference, Melbourne

**Sydney, 21 June 2023.** Actinogen Medical ASX: ACW ("ACW" or "the Company") is pleased to announce that its Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Dr Steven Gourlay, will present at the **Annual National Dementia Conference** in Melbourne today in the *Cognitive Decline Emerging Treatments & Trends* conference forum.

Dr Gourlay's keynote presentation topic is titled *Novel small molecule therapeutics in development for Alzheimer's Disease*. This presentation is an updated review of oral therapeutics in mid and late-stage clinical trials, such as Xanamem.<sup>®</sup>

It focuses on the relatively small number of oral non-amyloid mechanism drugs that have potential to solve for the gap between the 25-30% slowing of disease progression with newer amyloid antibody intravenous infusions, and the remaining 70-75% needed to entirely halt disease progression.

**The presentation slides are attached to this announcement.**

#### Dr Steven Gourlay, Actinogen CEO and MD, commented:

*"While recent positive data on new anti-amyloid antibody infusions give Alzheimer's patients hope, these drugs do not halt disease progression, underscoring the importance of on-going efforts in academia and industry to find more effective and safe therapies that will likely work via non-amyloid mechanisms."*

**ENDS**

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**Announcement authorised by the Board of Directors of Actinogen Medical**

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## About Actinogen Medical

Actinogen Medical (ACW) is an ASX-listed, biotechnology company developing a novel therapy for neurological and neuropsychiatric diseases associated with dysregulated brain cortisol. There is a strong association between cortisol and detrimental changes in the brain, affecting cognitive function, harm to brain cells and long-term cognitive health.

Cognitive function means how a person understands, remembers and thinks clearly. Cognitive functions include memory, attention, reasoning, awareness and decision-making.

Actinogen is currently developing its lead compound, Xanamem,<sup>®</sup> as a promising new therapy for Alzheimer's Disease and Depression and hopes to study Fragile X Syndrome and other neurological and psychiatric diseases in the future. Reducing cortisol inside brain cells could have a positive impact in these and many other diseases. The cognitive dysfunction, behavioural abnormalities, and neuropsychological burden associated with these conditions is debilitating for patients, and there is a substantial unmet medical need for new and improved treatments.

## About Xanamem

Xanamem's novel mechanism of action is to block the production of cortisol inside cells through the inhibition of the 11 $\beta$ -HSD1 enzyme in the brain. Xanamem is designed to get into the brain after it is absorbed in the intestines upon swallowing.

Chronically elevated cortisol is associated with cognitive decline in Alzheimer's Disease and excess cortisol is known to be toxic to brain cells. Cognitive impairment is also a feature in Depression and many other diseases. Cortisol itself is also associated with depressive symptoms and when targeted via other mechanisms has shown some promise in prior clinical trials.

The Company has studied 11 $\beta$ -HSD1 inhibition by Xanamem in more than 300 volunteers and patients, so far finding a statistically significant improvement in working memory and attention, compared with placebo, in healthy, older volunteers in two consecutive trials and clinically significant improvements in functional and cognitive ability in patients with biomarker-positive mild AD. Previously, high levels of target engagement in the brain with doses as low as 5 mg daily have been demonstrated in a human PET imaging study. A series of Phase 2 studies in multiple diseases is being conducted to further confirm and characterize Xanamem's therapeutic potential.

Xanamem is an investigational product and is not approved for use outside of a clinical trial by the FDA or by any global regulatory authority. Xanamem<sup>®</sup> is a trademark of Actinogen Medical.

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# Novel oral therapeutics in development for Alzheimer's Disease

*There is reason to believe that one or more novel, oral medications will emerge soon*

Dr Steven G Gourlay MBBS PhD, CEO & MD Actinogen Medical

Cognitive Decline Emerging Treatments & Trends Forum, Melbourne June 21, 2023

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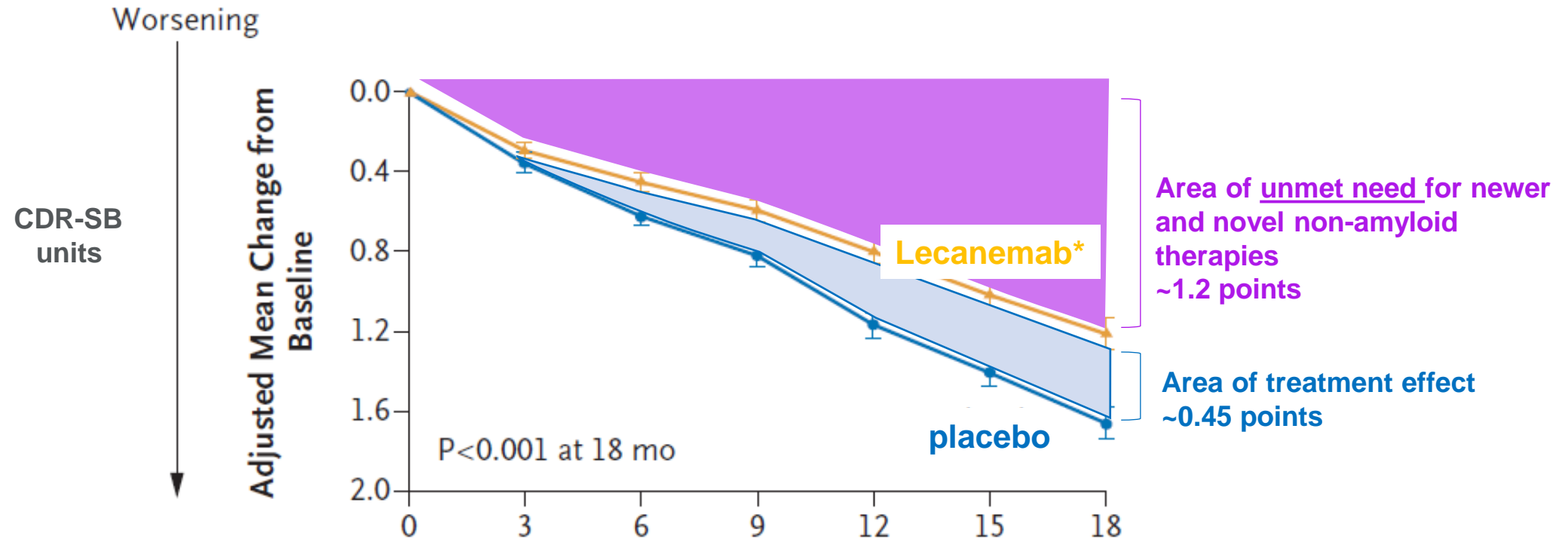
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Defining the biology of Alzheimer's is a bit like Michelangelo bringing out a human form from stone



# New anti-amyloid antibodies slow but do not halt AD progression



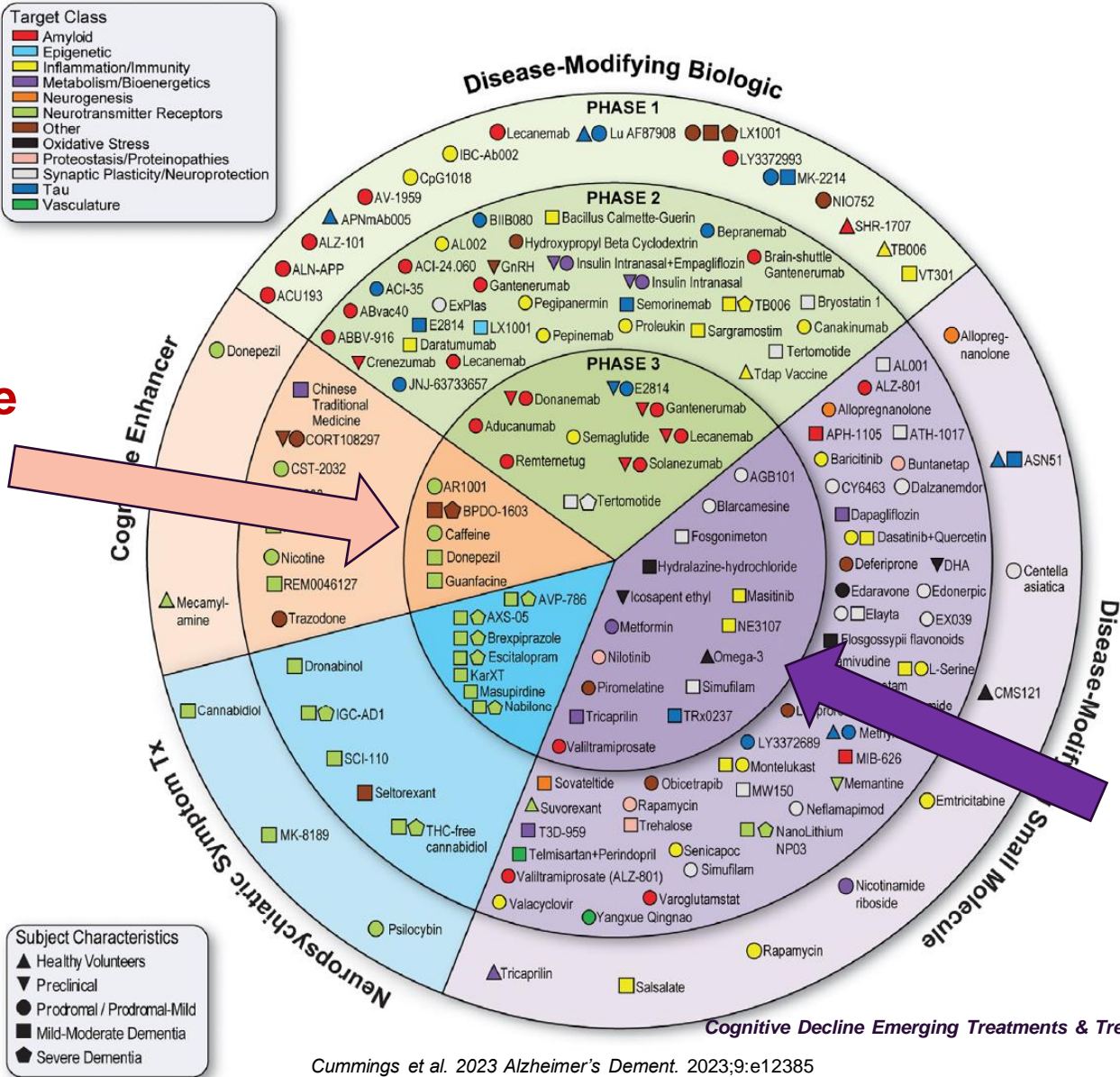
Drugs targeting non-amyloid mechanisms are needed  
Anti-amyloid therapies are not the entire answer

# Of the hundreds of candidates, what are some of the most promising oral medication programs?



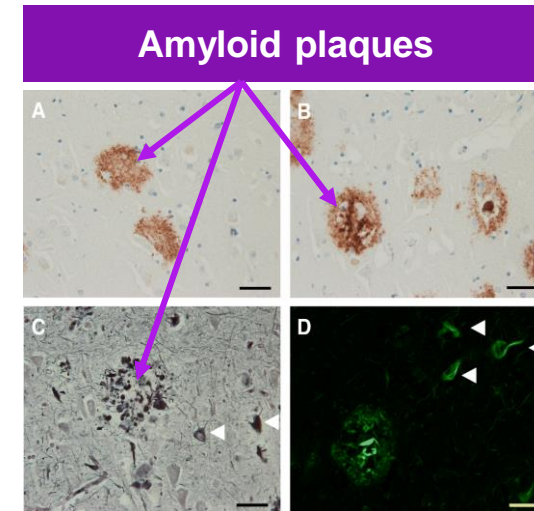
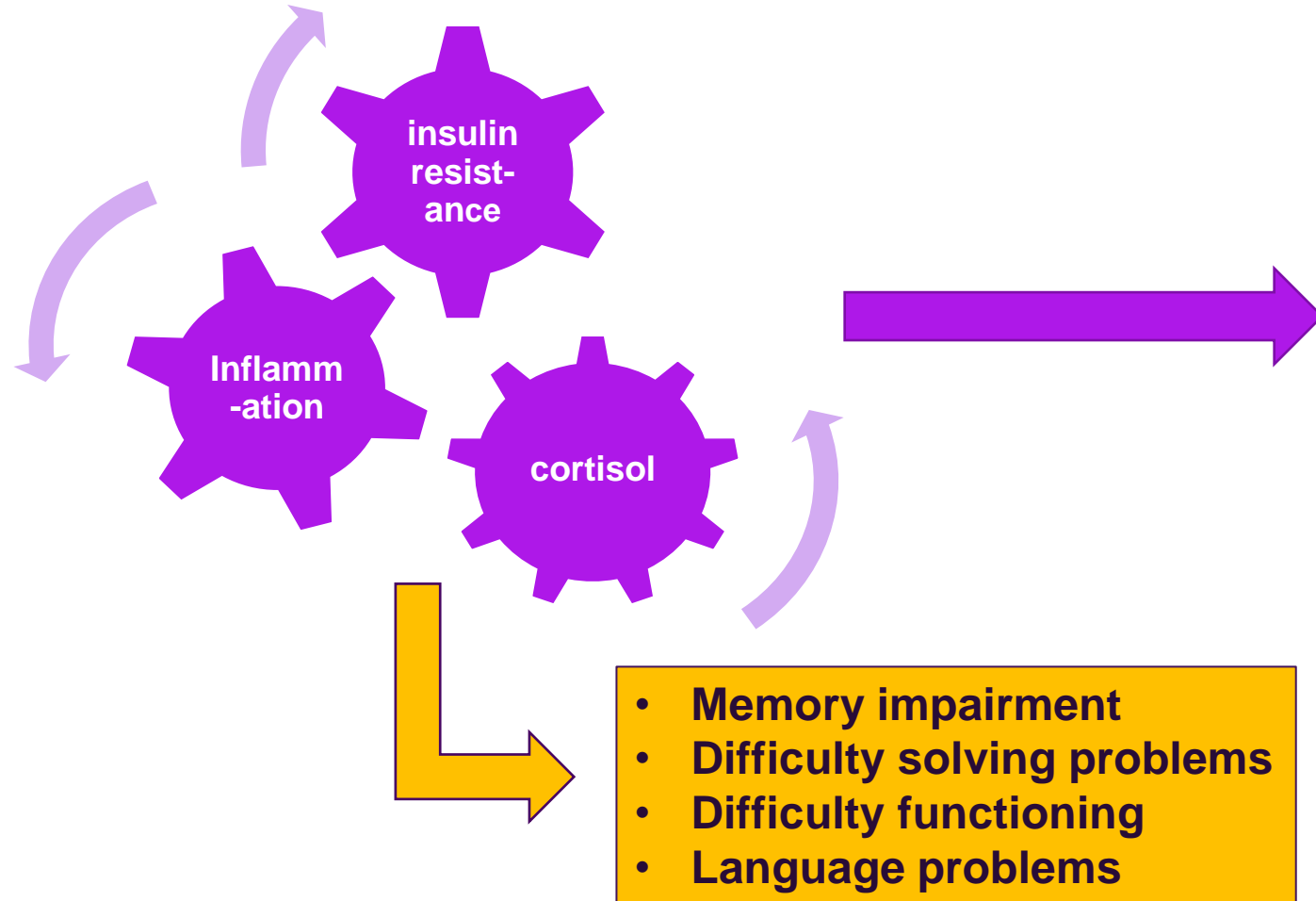
Promising cognitive enhancers of any mechanism

Promising disease-modifiers with non-amyloid mechanisms



# Neuroinflammation, abnormal cell signaling, and insulin resistance

*Amyloid and tau deposition may be secondary to these other processes*



**Tau tangles**





# There are relatively few novel oral cognitive enhancers with evidence of cognitive benefit



## *Any mechanism*

### Non-prescription

- Caffeine & nicotine- have brief effects

### Prescription

- Acetylcholinesterase prescription drugs like donepezil (Aricept and others), rivastigmine, galantamine
- NMDA antagonist memantine
- Amphetamine-like drugs e.g. for ADHD

### In Phase 3 clinical trials

- Novel formulations of older drugs like donepezil and memantine
- Guanfacine (an ADHD drug)

### In Phase 2 clinical trials

- Xanamem<sup>®</sup> brain cortisol synthesis inhibitor, cognitive enhancement in 3 trials

# There is some potential in the non-amyloid field for oral disease-modifiers

*Where there is some credible clinical data*

## Non-prescription

- None although curcumin has been used in South Asian medicine

## Prescription

- GV-971/oligomannate (China only), mechanism certain

## In Phase 3 clinical trials

- Semaglutide and other GLP-1 antagonist drugs (reduced risk of dementia onset in patients with Type 2 diabetes)

## In Phase 2 clinical trials

- Blarcamasine, a sigma-1 receptor agonist (reduced progression in one trial)
- Xanamem<sup>®</sup>, inhibitor of brain cortisol synthesis (trends towards slower progression in biomarker-positive patients with mild AD in one trial)

# Amyloid-mechanism oral disease-modifiers with credible cognitive data are few



*With pro-cognitive data in a randomized trial*

## Non-prescription

- None

## Prescription

- None

## In Phase 3 clinical trials

- Simufilam (Improved cognition and biomarkers, one 28-day trial)

## In Phase 2 clinical trials

- Varoglutamstat (some cognition & biomarkers, one 12-week trial)

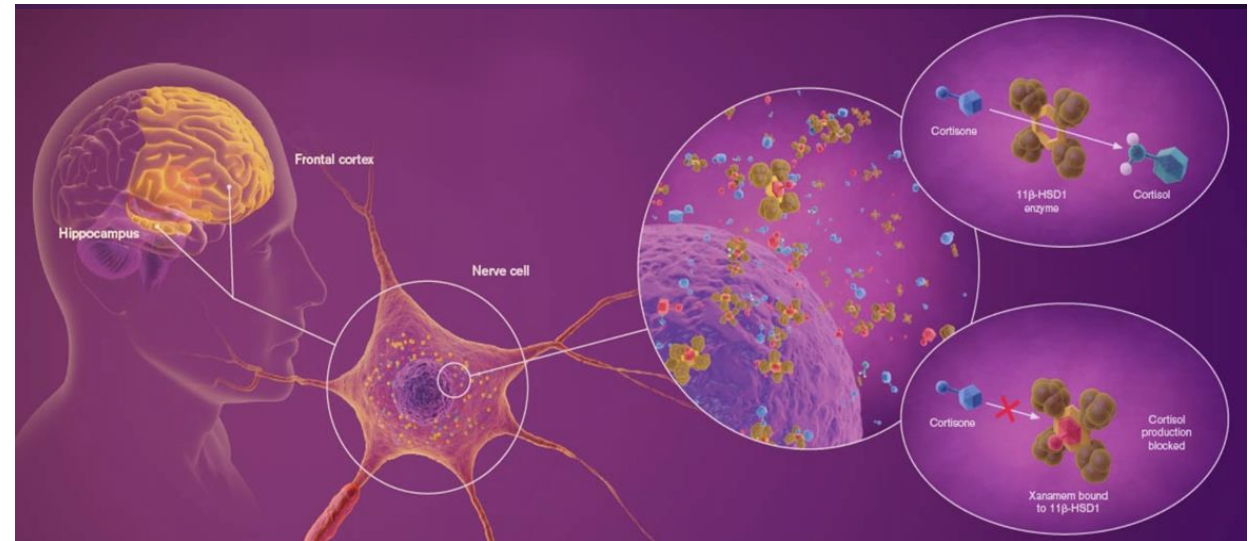
# Xanamem: oral, low-dose, once-a-day treatment with a unique, non-amyloid/tau mechanism

Rodent experimental studies & clinical trials validate cortisol target for treatment of AD<sup>1-4</sup>

**Brain penetrant** 11 $\beta$ -HSD1 small molecule enzyme inhibitor discovered at the University of Edinburgh **reduces cortisol inside brain cells**<sup>3,4</sup> - modulating signalling pathways and underlying disease processes

Potential to be:

- Rapidly **cognitive enhancing**
- **Disease-modifying** (slow or halt progression) in AD<sup>1,3</sup>
- **Anti-depressant**

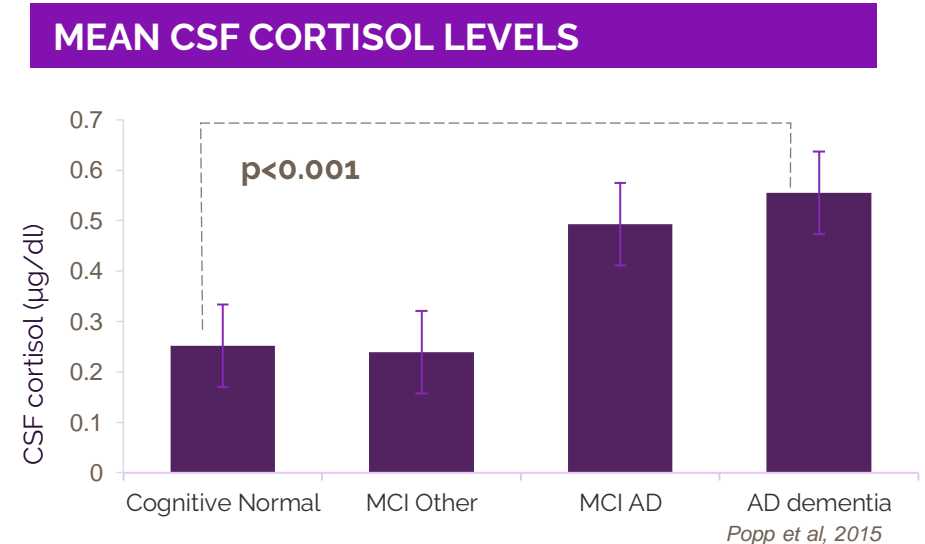




# Many studies support the association between elevated cortisol and AD development and progression<sup>1-9</sup>



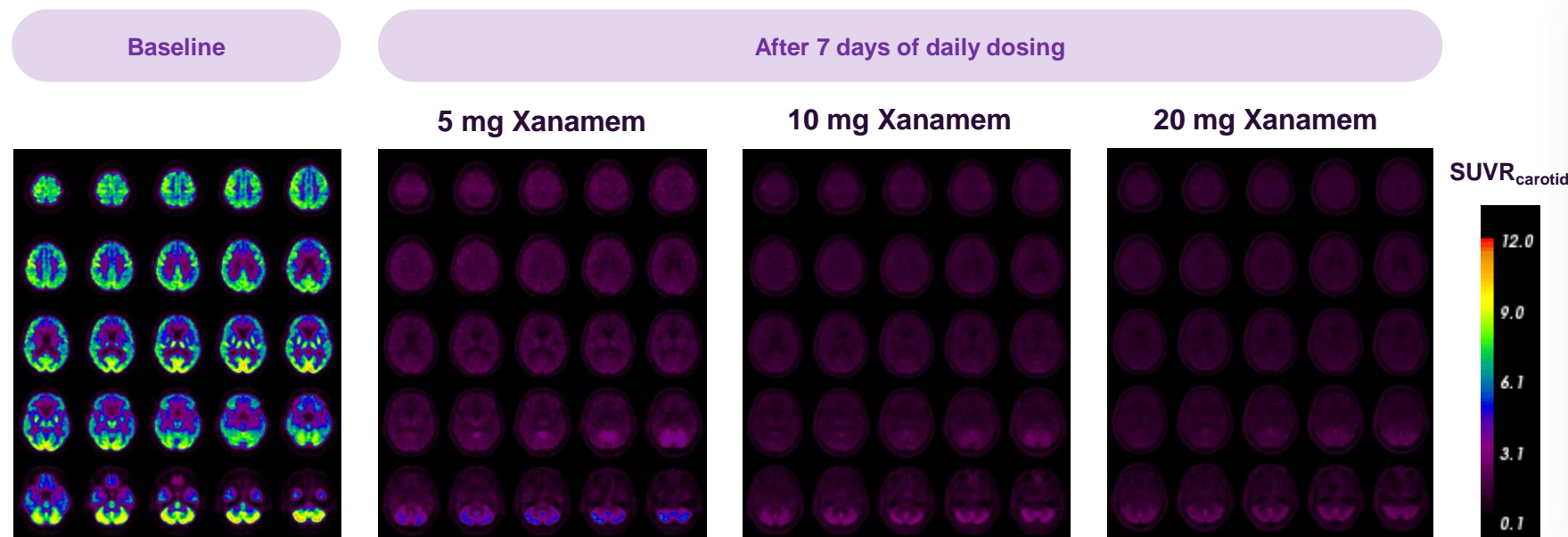
- Higher cortisol levels in human aging are associated with hippocampal atrophy<sup>1,2</sup>
- Chronic corticosteroid medication is associated with hippocampal and amygdalar atrophy and cognitive impairment<sup>3</sup>
- Higher plasma cortisol leads to a much greater risk of developing AD<sup>4,5</sup> and accelerated effect of A $\beta$ + on decline in global cognition, episodic memory, and attention<sup>6,7</sup>
- Higher CSF cortisol levels in AD patients are associated with more rapid clinical worsening and cognitive impairment<sup>3</sup>
- Individuals at high risk of AD due to the APOE- $\epsilon$ 4 allele have higher CSF cortisol<sup>9</sup> and lecanemab showed no treatment effect in  $\epsilon$ 4/ $\epsilon$ 4 patients<sup>10</sup>



Cognitive Decline Emerging Treatments & Trends Forum Melbourne June 21 2023

# PET data shows full target engagement in the brain at low doses

Previous enzyme inhibitors<sup>1</sup> have not achieved adequate brain concentrations



PET data<sup>2</sup> demonstrates that Xanamem extensively binds to the 11 $\beta$ -HSD1 enzyme throughout the brain, with high post-treatment effects (absence of colour) after 7 days at all doses, slightly less at a 5 mg dose.

This is consistent with full hormonal pharmacodynamic activity seen with 10 mg in clinical trials. 5 and 10 mg show excellent clinical tolerability and safety.

1. ABT-384 was claimed to have brain penetrant ability based on likely hepatic effects on deuterated cortisol (Katz et al. 2013), negative 12-week AD trial (Marek et al. 2014)

2. Study population consisted of ~50% healthy older subjects who were cognitively normal and ~50% with Alzheimer's disease. Subjects dosed for seven days.

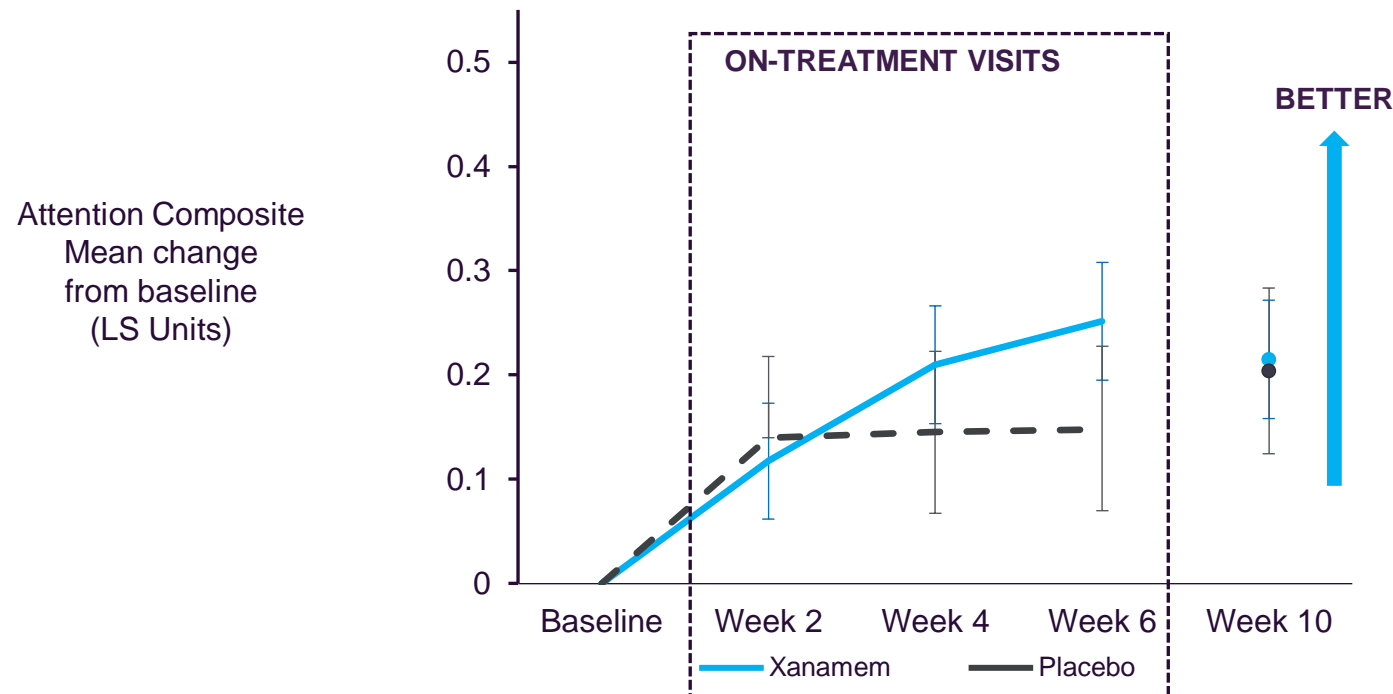
Baseline: Mean of baseline scans of patients in that dose group; After dose: Mean of post-dosing (7 days) scans in that dose group.

# Second trial confirms improved attention/working memory at 4-6 weeks using lower doses of 5 – 10 mg



Computerized cognitive testing in cognitively normal older people, 5, 10 mg daily vs. placebo

XanaMIA Phase 1b trial (n=107, Xanamem 10 mg & 5 mg combined)

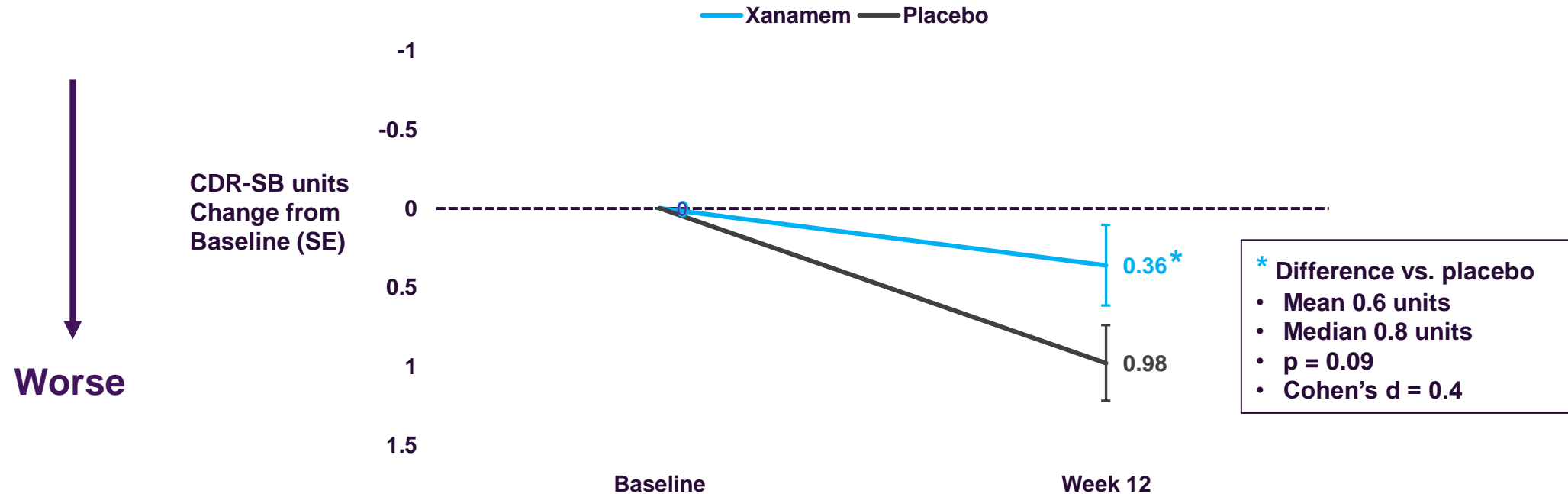


Pro-cognitive effects of Xanamem confirmed in second randomized trial

# Xanamem slows the rate of CDR-SB (functional) decline in mild AD\*



Patients with elevated plasma pTau181 indicating progressive, amyloid-positive disease (n=34)



Extrapolated to 18 months effect size would be more than 3 points

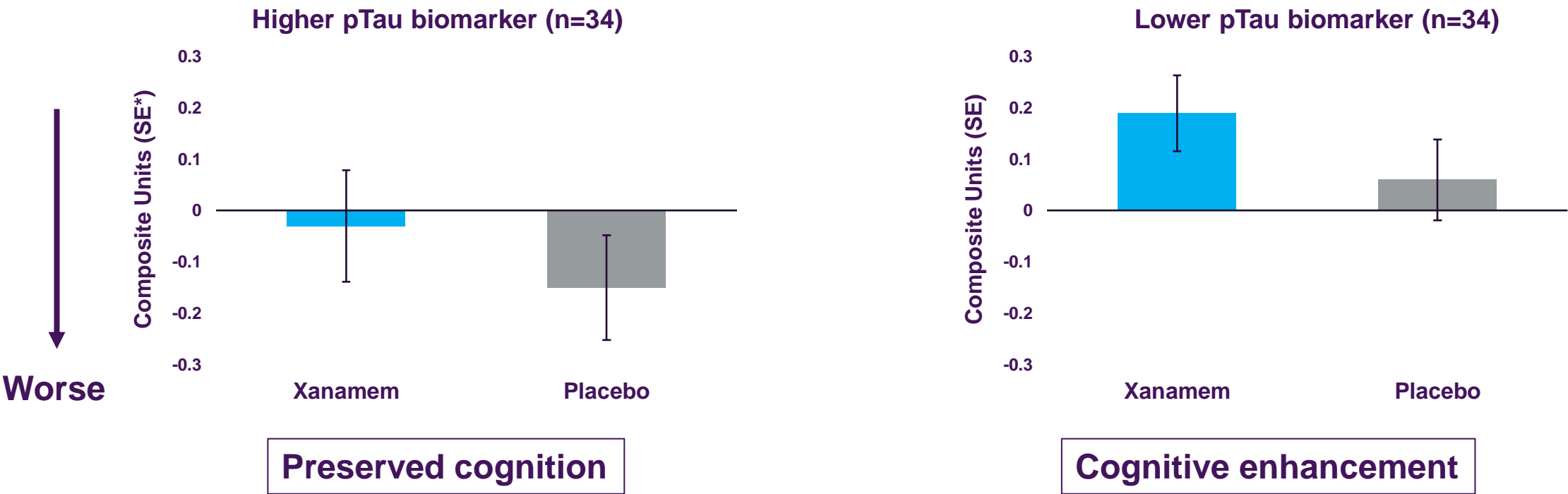
\* Patients with a pre-treatment plasma pTau181 level greater than the pre-specified median of 6.74 pg/mL to indicate AD pathology and likelihood of progressive disease; similar effect size for pTau >10.2 pg/mL cutoff; effect size 8-10 times greater than 0.4-0.45 reported for lecanemab (USPI Leqembi 2023 & van Dyck et al. 2022; DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa2212948) if extrapolated to 18 months



# Cognitive composite scores suggest potential clinical benefit across dementia patient sub-types\*



Positive trends in both high and low plasma pTau biomarker groups



Consistent with Xanamem activity as a cognitive enhancer & disease-modifier

# Timetable for trial results for oral AD therapies

Year	Drug or company	Target	Steve's probability of success
2023	deferiprone	Iron	Low
	TauRx	Tau*	Low
	NE3107	ERK1/2	Low
	simufilam	Filamen A*	Low-Medium
<b>2023</b>	<b>varoglutamstat</b>	<b>pglu-A<math>\beta</math>/QC*</b>	<b>Medium</b>
	CT1812	Sigma-2*	Low
2024	Valiltramprostate	Amyloid form.*	Low-Medium
	LY337268	OGA*	Low
<b>2025</b>	<b>Xanamem</b>	<b>cortisol</b>	<b>Medium-High</b>
<b>2026</b>	<b>semaglutide</b>	<b>GLP-1</b>	<b>Medium</b>

\* Amyloid or tau protein-related mechanisms

# Oral medication AD trials are recruiting in Australia



## Phase 3

- Statin drugs (STAREE trial)
- Semaglutide EVOKE (GLP-1 antagonist, diabetes and weight loss treatment)
- Simufilam (Filamen A)

## Phase 2

- MK-1942 (unknown mechanism)
- LY3372689 (preventing tau tangle formation)
- Probucol (anti-lipid)
- SAME (methionine, anti-inflammation)
- CT1812 (sigma-2 antagonist)
- Pending: Xanamem (tissue cortisol inhibitor)

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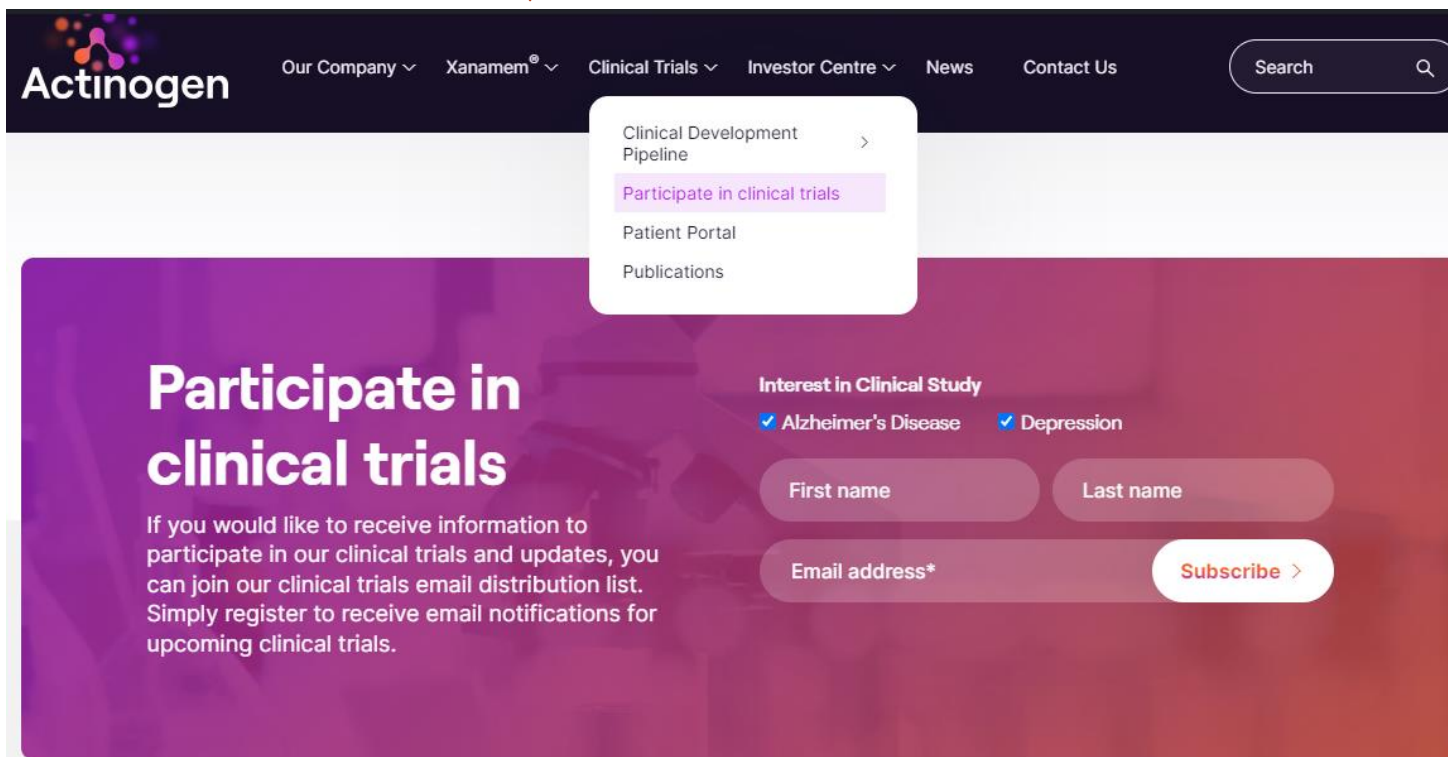
## How to access our Xanamem phase 2 trial in Alzheimer's disease

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The answers to  
Alzheimer's Disease  
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