

## **Faron Pharmaceuticals**

(LSE AIM: FARN, NASDAQ Helsinki: FARON)

AGM Presentation, 18 May 2020

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# FARON'S PIPELINE IS BASED ON RECEPTORS INVOLVED IN THE REGULATION OF IMMUNE RESPONSES & VASCULAR DYSFUNCTIONS



The endothelial surface of exhaustive capillary networks (100,000 km/individual) controls fluid and cell balance between circulation and tissues, and is a factor in many devastating diseases such as organ failures and cancer metastasis

# FARON IS FOCUSED ON ACTIVATION OF LOST IMMUNITY AND ORGAN FUNCTIONS

## Faron is a Finnish based biotech developing first in class therapies in immuno-oncology and organ failure

- Lead cancer immunotherapy program, Clevegen, is a novel anti-CLEVER-1 antibody with the ability to switch immune suppression to immune activation
- Early results from ongoing Phase I/II study in solid tumours show broad effect on immune checkpoints, co-stimulation markers and activation markers.
  - Potential for "combination drug in a single treatment"
  - Smarter selection of combination treatment can reduce costs, patient burden and increase clinical efficacy
- Clevegen has been well tolerated and demonstrated promising clinical anti-tumour activity in several tumour types
- Pipeline includes Traumakine (intravenous interferon beta-1a) developed to prevent vascular leakage in acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS)
  - Currently in global REMAP-CAP and WHO SOLIDARITY clinical trials including COVID-19 patients
- Faron has been listed on London AIM (FARN) since 2015, and on the NASDAQ Helsinki (FARON) since 2019

## **KEY PIPELINE HIGHLIGHTS – ALL MAJOR GOALS ACHIEVED**

(including Post Period-end)

## Clevegen

- Part I of MATINS trial completes with switch in immune cell profiles towards increased immune activation confirmed in cancer patients and good tolerability at all dosing levels
- Down regulation of a range of major inhibitory immune checkpoints (PD-1, PD-L1, CTLA-4, etc)
- First target lesion responders observed (CRC and melanoma)
- Data monitoring committee recommends rapid expansion of MATINS into additional tumor types
- AGC Biologics selected to be commercial scale manufacturer

## **Traumakine**

- INTEREST trial results explained by molecular interference of concomitant corticosteroid use
- FDA acceptance of new clinical study plan for Traumakine in ARDS patients
- Currently in two major global trials investigating potential in COVID-19 patients

## **AOC3** antagonist platform technology

Rights acquired for potential new use of AOC3 inhibitors

## **KEY FINANCIAL & CORPORATE HIGHLIGHTS**

(including Post Period-end)

## **Financial**

- Successfully raised €15.6m gross (€14.5m net) through several fundraises during 2019
- Continued tight cash management into 2020
- Cash balance of €7.1m on 31 December 2019 (2018: €4.1m)
- Operating loss of €13.3m (2018: €20.1m)
- Net assets of €1.6m on 31 December 2019 (2018: €0.4m)
- Recent €14.0m cross equity round will finance the Company to H1-2021

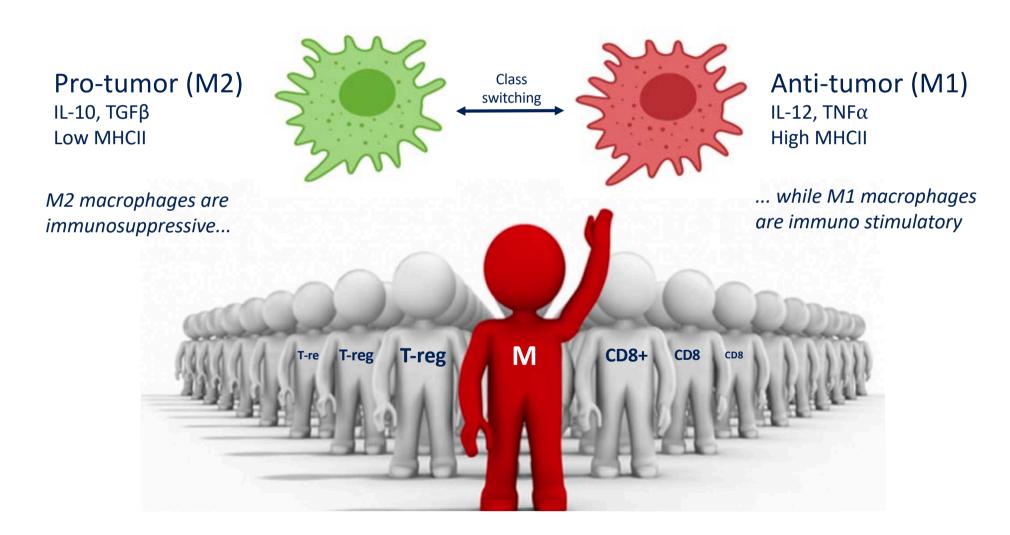
## Corporate

- □ Voluntary salary and fee savings by Board, CEO and personnel continued into Q1/2019
- Structural alignment of management team with current objectives
- ☐ Alignment of finance and funding (New CFO Toni Hänninen; Yrjö Wichmann to VP, Financing and IR)
- Dual listing NASDAQ First North Helsinki in December 2019



The immune switch

## **MACROPHAGES AS GENERALS OF ANTI-TUMOR IMMUNITY**



**Cancer cell** 

**Cancer cell** Only activation of adaptive immunity can fight cancer Clever-1 Clevegen - the immune switch antibody The immune switch

## **MATINS STUDY EXPANSION TIMELINES**



Part II ongoing

Part I (dose finding)

Dose escalation
4 dose levels
n=2 at each dose level
total n=8
HCC, PDAC, OC,
melanoma, CRC

Allocation to all 4
dose levels
n=2 at each dose level
total n=8
HCC, PDAC, OC,
melanoma, CRC

(+ 20 mg / kg dose level) + 0.1 mg / kg dose level n=2 at each dose level Total n=12

n=5 at each dose level total n=30 Part II expansion

HCC n=10

PDAC n=10

OC n=10

Melanoma n=10

GC & CC n=10

CRC n=10

Uveal melanoma n=10

Gastric Adenoca n=10

BC(ER+) n=10

Part III expansion

HCC

PDA

0

Melanom

GC & CC

CRC n = 19

UM

GA

BC(ER+)

- Safety ✓
- Surrogate efficacy ✓

- Cohort selection ✓
- Initial efficacy  $\checkmark$

- Cohort expansion
- Clinical proof of concept

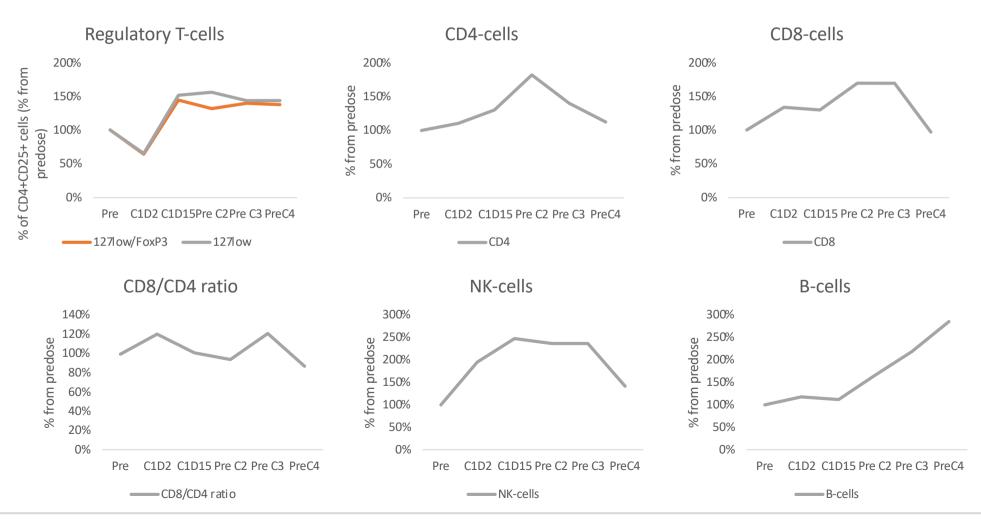
Q4'2018 - Q1'2020

Q1'2020 - Q3'2021

Q4'2020 - Q2'2023

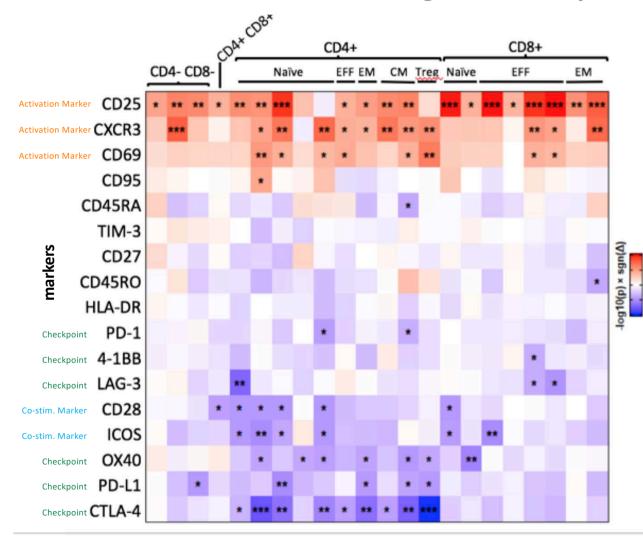
## STRONG IMMUNE SWITCH POST CLEVEGEN ADMINISTRATION

These changes coincided with metastasis shrinkage of CRC patient tumours



## **CLEVER-1, MASTER REGULATOR OF IMMUNITY**

Anti-Clever-1 treatment downregulates all major checkpoints on T cells



EFF = Effector

EM = Effector memory

CM = Central memory

Treg = T regulatory

\* P < 0.05

\*\* P < 0.01

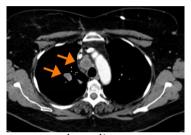
\*\*\* P < 0.001

#### Conclusion:

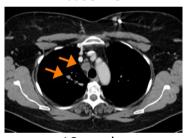
- Clevegen could outperform current immune check point treatments (anti-PD-1, PD-L1, CTLA-4, etc.) and, as monotherapy, provide permanent immune stimulation against various cancer types
- Sales of the current IO cancer treatments in 2019 were \$15+ billion

## **INCREASING NUMBER OF RESPONDING CANCERS**

#### Colorectal cancer



baseline



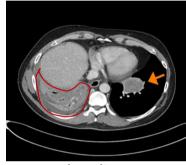
10 weeks



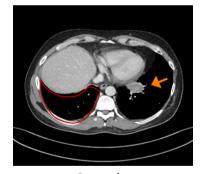
30 weeks

Arrows point shrinking lung metastasis in MSI low CRC patient. Treatment initiated after six lines of therapy

#### Cutaneous melanoma



baseline



6 weeks

Arrow points shrinking lung metastasis.

Note the clearance of pleural effusion (red circle). Treatment initiated after four lines of therapy including ipilimumab/nivolumab

#### Ovarian cancer



baseline



10 weeks

Arrow points shrinking lung metastasis. Treatment initiated after six lines of therapy including pembrolizumab

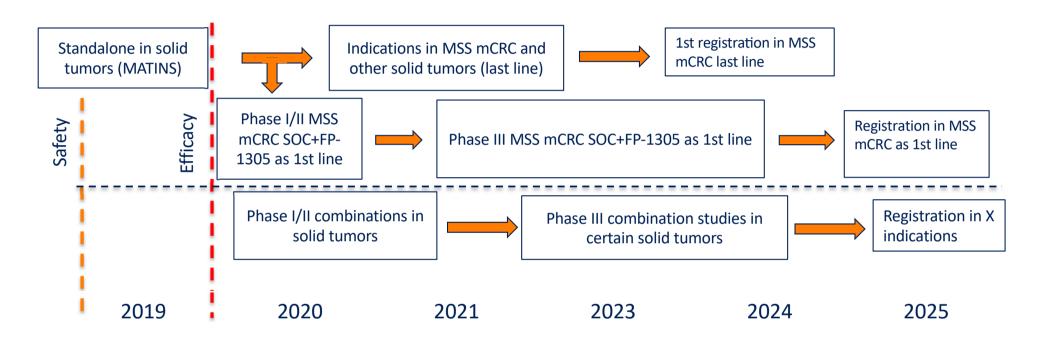
## **CLINICAL CLEVEGEN SUMMARY**

#### MATINS Part I outcome

- No safety concerns
- 2 partial responses (PR): one in MSI neg CRC (0.3mg/kg) and one in melanoma (1mg/kg)
- 1 pseudo-progression in ovarian cancer (3mg/kg), followed by shrinking of target lesions and disappearance of some off-target lesions
- 7 stable disease (SD)/or mixed responses, some still under evaluation
- Clinical response is statistically associated with an increase in peripheral natural killer
   (NK) cells and B cells and an increase in plasma interferon gamma levels

Recommendation from study data monitoring committee to rapidly expand study into all cancer cohorts in the study protocol

## FOCUSED CLINICAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY INITIATED WITH CRC



- Development initiated as a stand alone in solid tumors with Clever + and no treatment options
- Moving into other solid tumours and 1st line settings after safety and tolerability has been established
- Combination studies run by partner(s) if satisfactory offers are met

#### **CLEVEGEN VALUE DRIVERS**

Provides stand-alone or combination therapies to combat cancer

#### Novel mode of action to remove immune suppression around tumours

- Targets unique immune switch molecule Clever-1 on the surface of tumour associated type 2 macrophages (TAM-2)
- No expected toxicities or abnormalities (e.g., cytokine storm, acute infusion reaction, etc), supported by good primate and human safety data

#### Maximising treatment success using liquid biopsy for Clever-1 positive monocytes/macrophages

- Low presence of CD86+ TAMs (M1) and high presence of CD206+ TAMs (M2) correlate well with aggressive HCC and poor survival outcome (Dong et al., Int. J. Mol. Sci. 2016: 17: 320)
- High presence of Clever-1 positive TAMs is associated with poor survival in colorectal cancer (Ålgars et al. Int J Cancer 2012;131(4):864-73)



#### **Examples of targeted Clever-1 positive cancer patient populations\***

Cancer type	Cases/year*	Deaths/year*	Death percentile	Clever-1 positivity**	Potential number of	treatments
Colorectal	1 650 000	835 000	51 %	50 %	825 000	
Liver	782 000	746 000	95 %	90 %	703 800	
Pancreas	338 000	330 000	98 %	90 %	304 200	
Ovarian	239 000	152 000	64 %	60 %	143 400	
					1 976 400	TOTAL

Commercial upside could be significant as safety profile is better than with many existing IO products and treatment is targeting selected patients

## **NEXT CLEVEGEN STEPS**

## Clevegen: Accelerate MATINS regulatory pathway by

- Expanding study sites in Europe and US for Part II and III (cohort expansions)
- Accelerate expansion cohorts, initiated with CRC
- Seeking regulatory end of phase II advice for BLA/MAA pathway
- Applying for Breakthrough (FDA) and Prime (EMA) status
- Continuing partnering discussions
- Executing manufacturing expansion

INTERFERON-BETA
TREATMENT OF ARDS
AND OTHER ISCHAEMIC
REPERFUSION INJURIES



## **ACUTE RESPIRATORY DISTRESS SYNDROME (ARDS)**

A leading driver of mortality in influenza, pneumonia, sepsis, and major trauma

ARDS is an inflammatory lung injury leading to vascular leakage filling the lungs with fluid

- "drowning from within"

## The burden of ARDS

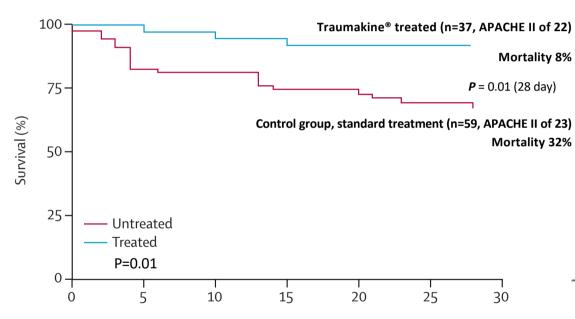
- Over 300,000 cases annually in EU & US, and 3 million worldwide<sup>1</sup>
- Mortality 30–40%<sup>2</sup>
- On average an ARDS patient spends 25 days in the ICU and 47 days in the hospital<sup>2</sup>
- This accounts to 3.6 million hospital days each year in the USA<sup>3,4</sup>
- 70–100% suffer from cognitive impairment at hospital discharge<sup>5</sup>
- Only 48% are able to return work after 1 year<sup>4</sup>



## PHASE I/II PROOF OF CONCEPT TRIAL RESULTS

Reduction in ICU stay from 28 to 16 days, less need for dialysis between groups

#### Primary endpoint: significant drop in mortality<sup>1</sup>



Phase I/II trial showed a significant reduction in mortality with positive secondary endpoints

## THE LANCET Respiratory Medicine

#### No safety issues

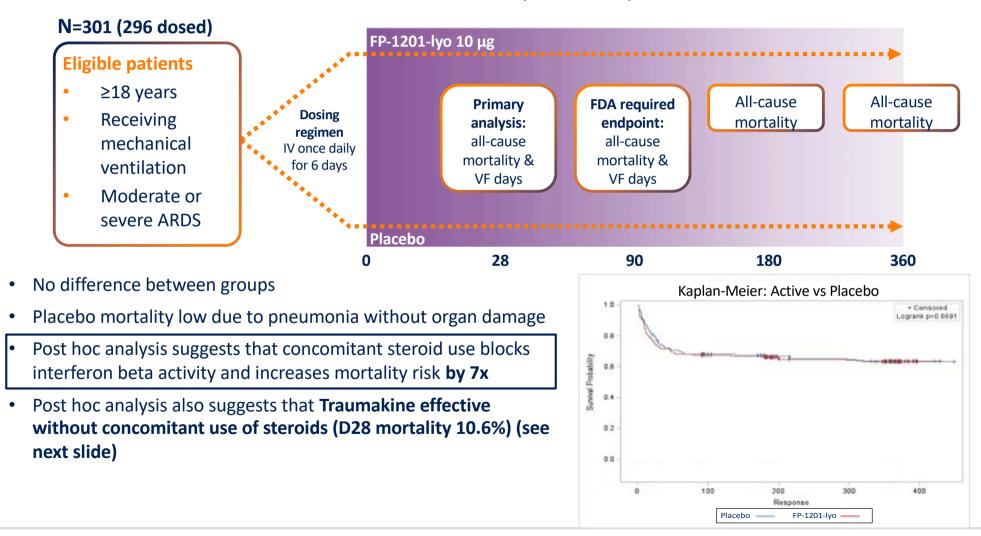
- Interferon Beta, has good safety profile and in chronic use with MS patients worldwide
- Optimal tolerated dose established
- Short treatment period

#### **Positive secondary endpoints**

- Mortality at six months was lower than expected
- Improvement in lung function and functional assessments aligned with improvement in lung function and general dysfunction
- Efficacy improvements are consistent with a reduction in vascular leakage

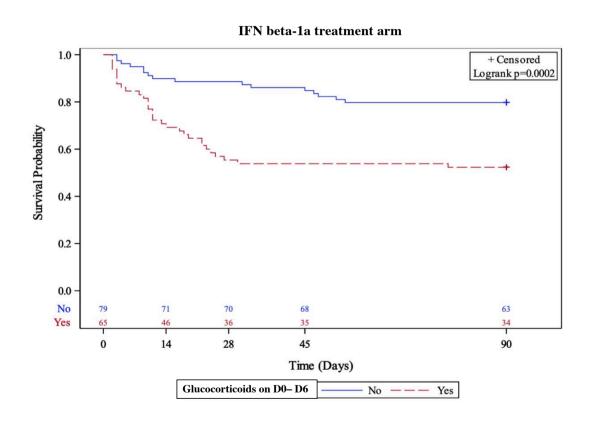
## PHASE III TRIAL (INTEREST STUDY): DESIGN & RESULTS

Multi center, double blind, 1:1 randomized, pan-European trial<sup>1,2</sup>



## **CONCOMITANT CORTICOSTEROID USE INCREASES MORTALITY**

Post hoc propensity-matched analysis of INTEREST trial data base of the active arm<sup>(1)</sup>



Patients <u>without</u> concomitant steroid use

Patients <u>with</u> concomitant steroid use<sup>(1)</sup>

(1) Steroids reduce the efficacy of Traumakine by reducing its inferior-beta activity

## **FUTURE TRAUMAKINE STEPS**

## **Traumakine: Supporting next steps**

- Support COVID-19 global response with Traumakine participation in REMAP-CAP and WHO SOLIDARITY trials
- Finalise new study plan for US post FDA acceptance of study design and protocol
- Study initiation post external funding
- Continue interactions with key ICU opinion leaders to minimize corticosteroid use in ARDS patients
   \* The Company noted a recommendation made by WHO in January 2020 that steroids should <u>not</u> be used on
   coronavirus infected patients: <a href="https://www.who.int/publications-detail/clinical-management-of-severe-acute-respiratory-infection-when-novel-coronavirus-(ncov)-infection-is-suspected</a>
- Seek publications in leading peer-reviewed journals
- Re-establish Traumakine manufacturing

## **KEY INVESTMENT HIGHLIGHTS**

Lead IO Program, Clevegen (FP-1305), is Potentially First-in-Class

- Advancing promising first-in-class immuno-oncology program, Clevegen, which appears to reactivate the immune system against immunosuppressive tumors
- Clevegen targets CLEVER-1 positive Tumor-associated Macrophages (TAMs) and converts highly immunosuppressive M2 macrophages to immune stimulating M1 macrophages

Significant Clinical Progress to Date, With Excellent Safety Data

- The MATINS study is the first-in-human open label Phase I/II clinical trial with an adaptive design to investigate the safety and efficacy of Clevegen in selected metastatic or inoperable solid tumors
- Good tolerability at all dosing levels without dose limiting toxicity, leading to the announcement of the first expansion cohort in CRC patients in Jan'20, where there is a significant unmet need and a near-term path to approval

Biomarker Data Highlights Clevegen's Potential

- The MATINS trial has revealed patients' immune activation: increased circulating CD8+ T cells and CD8+/CD4+ ratio, decreased regulatory T-cells (T-regs) and/or a substantial increase in mobile natural killer (NK) cells in the blood
- The response curve to treatment has revealed a "textbook" innate and adaptive immune response, highlighting the program's potential in earlier lines of treatment

Blue-Sky Upside as Part of Personalized Medicine Approach to Cancer Treatment

- The analysis of checkpoints (also known as exhaustion markers) and activation markers can potentially also be used to guide the best possible checkpoint inhibitor(s) combination treatment with anti-Clever-1 therapy
- Cell surface markers like PD-1, PD-L1, CTLA-4, LAG3, and TIM, can then be used to monitor a patient's
  response to anti-Clever-1 therapy and to evaluate the need for combination therapy in addition to antiClever-therapy, and point practitioners towards a bespoke, optimized, solution

Upside from Legacy Program, Traumakine, in Development for ARDS

- Faron's pipeline includes Traumakine, in development for the treatment of Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS), a disease with 300,000 cases annually in EU & US, 3 million worldwide and a mortality rate of 30–40%
- Factors that led to Phase III failure in 2018 are now well understood and corrected, partnering the program will provide upside



## **Thank You**

"Our world is built on biology. Once we begin to understand our biology, it then becomes a technology"