

iPSC/MSC engineered cell therapy for inflammatory disease



**KIJI**  
Therapeutics

# A new paradigm – Professionalizing MSCs

## Challenge

### Why we need a new paradigm for MSCs:

- MSCs have unfulfilled efficacy
- MSC manufacturing has limitations

## Solution

### Addressing unmet medical need in inflammatory diseases:

- Genetically engineer MSCs for potency
- Proprietary IL10/CXCR4 for GvHD; IBD; Skin
- iPSC technology for improved scale, manufacturing efficiency and consistency

A new era for the treatment of autoimmune diseases with iMSCs

# Engineered iPSC/MSC derived cell therapies for inflammatory and other major diseases

## Game-changing

- Transformative off-the-shelf
- Engineered cell therapy
- iPSC based
- Broad platform

## Advanced

- Validating trial partially financed by a grant (60%) to start in 2024.
- Extensive *in vitro* and *in vivo* multiple model PoC for Autoimmune Diseases (GvHD, IBD, Skin, other)
- iPSC and gene engineering tools

## Ready to proceed

- Highly experienced team, advisors and corporate structure
- Collaborations with Cimat & Clínica Universidad de Navarra
- CDMO Industrial collaboration for iPSC



We built Kiji Therapeutics to deliver engineered cell therapies for life threatening disease

# Kiji Therapeutics Snapshot

## Mission

- Develop transformative off-the-shelf engineered iPSC derived cell therapies for life threatening diseases

## Product

- KJ01: LentiVirus-transduced MSCs overexpressing IL10 & CXCR4
- On track to enter in the clinic in Q4 2024 for refractory aGvHD
- FIH study to deliver first product and engineered MSC platform validation

## Platform

- Genetically engineered cells for increased potency and efficacy
- iPSC/iMSC for optimal and flexible manufacturing
- Genetically-modified iMSCs for transformative therapeutic efficacy

## Team

- Experienced Scientific Founders, Management and Scientific/Clinical Advisory Board

## Financing

- Created in Feb 2023 in France and Spain with initial financial support from AdBio Partners
- Raising €10M seed round to generate clinical PoC KJ01 and platform development

# Experienced Management Team



Miguel Forte,  
MD, PhD  
CEO



Anthony Ting, PhD  
CSO



Michel Andraud,  
CFO



Stefanos  
Theoharis, PhD  
CBO



Francesc Dosrius  
Operations Manager



Maria Fernandez  
Garcia, PhD  
Dir R&D / PM

Management team  
experienced in **C&GT**  
product development,  
corporate development  
and **international**  
clinical trials

Operational readiness for R&D and GMP production through Service Agreement with Ciemat and Clínica Universidad de Navarra  
Clinical trial execution in collaboration with the Universidad de Navarra  
Industrial partnership for virus production



# Expert Advisory Board



**Juan Bueren, PhD  
(Chair)**

Head of Division  
Director of Biomedical  
Innovation Unit  
President ESGCT  
**CIEMAT**  
Spain

C&GT; MSC



**Massimo Dominici,  
MD, PhD**

Professor and Director  
of the Program of  
Cellular Therapy and  
Immuno-oncology  
**University Hospital of  
Modena and Reggio  
Emilia**  
Italy

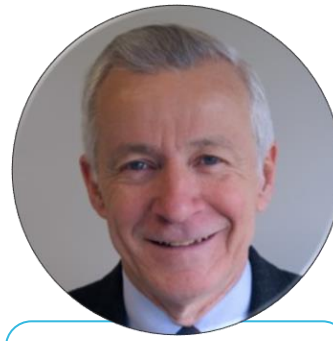
C&GT; MSC



**Felipe Prosper,  
MD, PhD**

Head of Cellular  
Therapy Unit  
Co-director of  
Haematology and  
Haemotherapy Unit  
Haematology and  
Oncology Specialist  
**Clínica Universidad de  
Navarra, Spain**

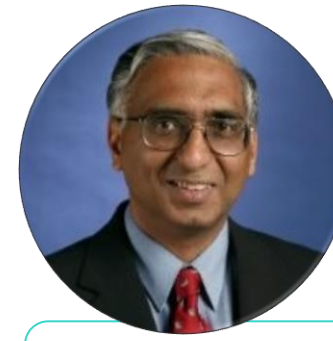
GvHD



**Jean-Frederic  
Colombel, MD**

Professor of Medicine  
Director of The Clinical  
Susan and Leonard  
Feinstein IBD;  
Director of Center and  
The Research Leona M.  
and Harry B.Helmsley  
IBD  
**Icahn School of  
Medicine, Mount Sinai  
Hospital, US**

IBD



**Mahendra Rao, PhD**

**Pluristyx, US** CSO,  
**Pancella Therapeutics**  
former CEO,  
Head of Stem Cell and  
Regen Med division at  
**LiFE Technologies,**  
Chair **CBER (FDA)**  
advisory committee  
(CTGTAC),  
founding Director of  
the **NIH Center of  
Regenerative Medicine**

iPSC; MSC



**Richard Maziarz, MD**

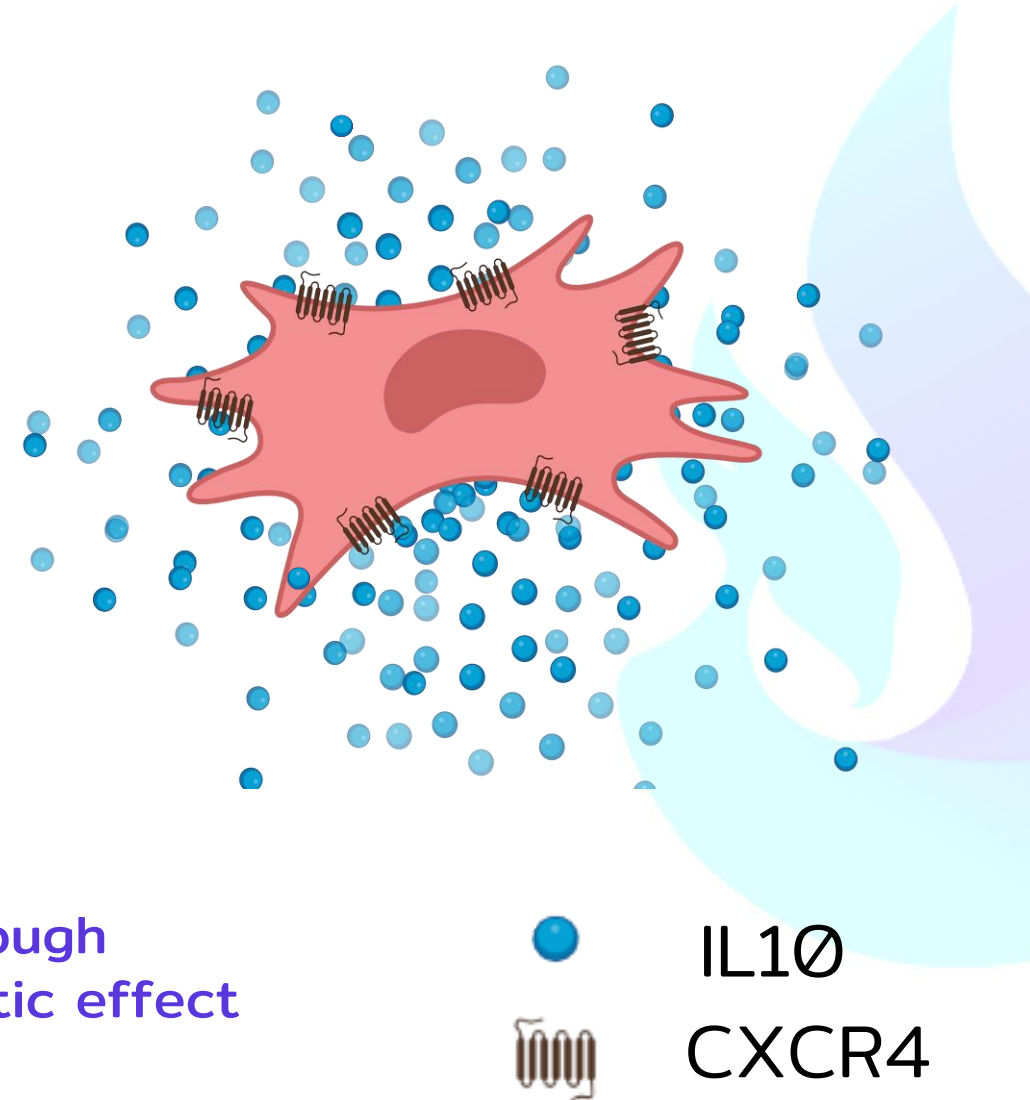
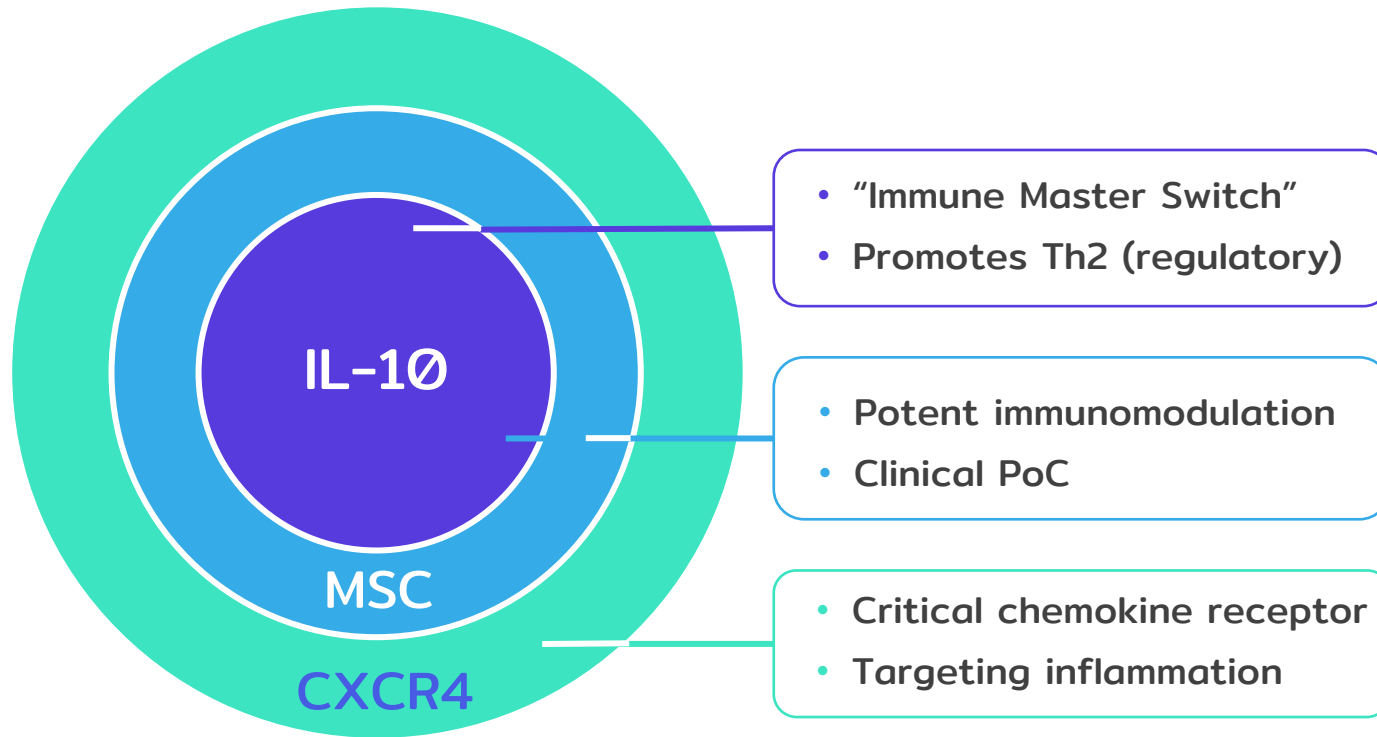
Professor of Medicine  
and former medical  
director of the adult  
stem cell transplant  
program  
**Oregon Health Sciences  
University**  
US

GvHD

International Scientific and Clinical Advisory Board with Opinion Leaders in Cell and Gene Therapy (C&GT), MSC product development, iPSC technology and clinical indications for GvHD and IBD



# We built Kiji Therapeutics to deliver engineered iMSCs for inflammatory diseases



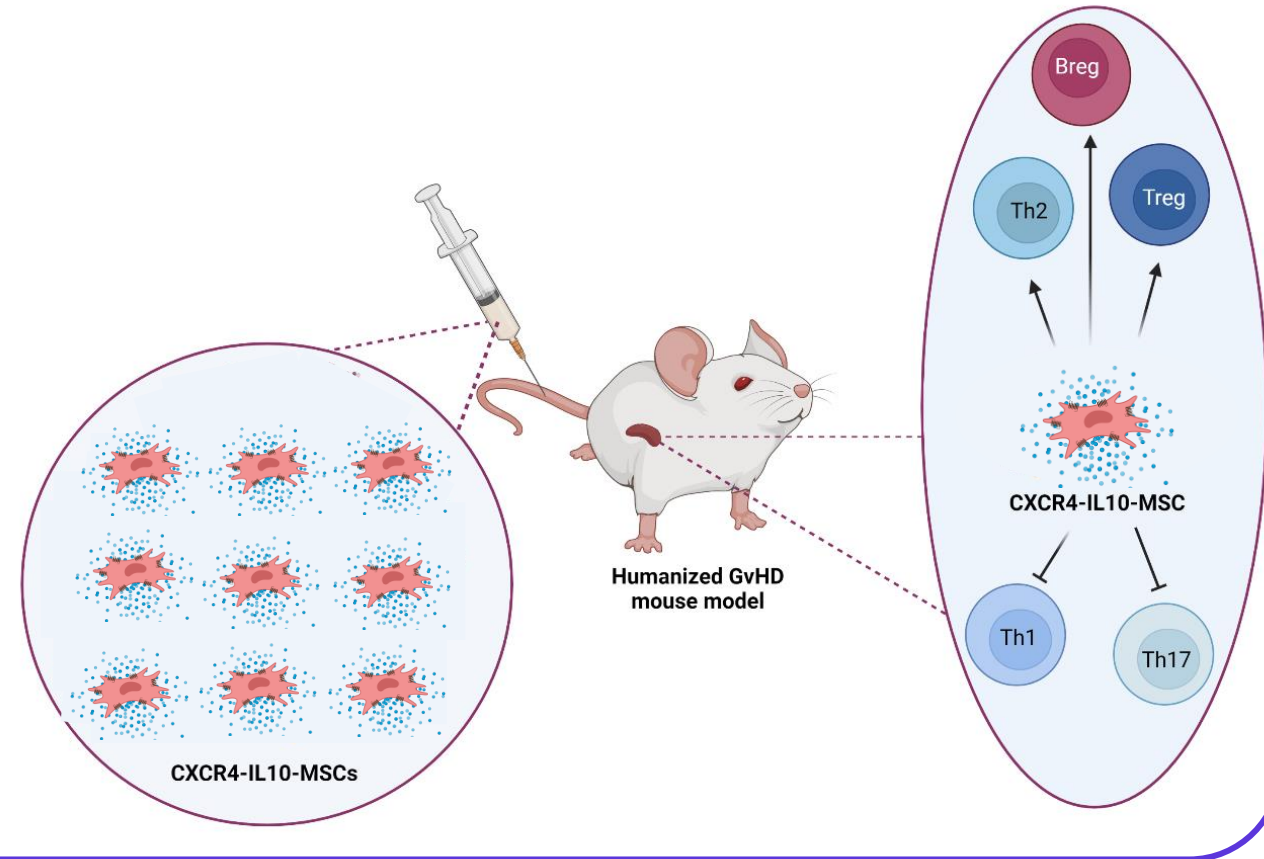
Kiji Tx delivers targeted immunomodulatory IL10 through genetically engineered MSCs for optimized therapeutic effect

|      | Technology<br>(Allo; Off-the Shelf)                | Indication                                      | Stage                                  |                                       |                  |
|------|--|---|--|---------------------------------------|------------------|
|      |  |   | Discovery/<br>Pre-clinical             | Pre-clinical/<br>IND enabling studies | Clinical         |
| KJ01 | Donor Ad-MSD<br>(IL10/CXCR4)                       | SR-aGvHD  | IND package available; Pre-GMP product |                                       | 4Q24             |
| KJ02 | iPSC-derived iMSD<br>(IL10/CXCR4)                  | IBD, Skin, Solid<br>Organ Transplant,<br>Lung   | Discovery / R&D product                |                                       | Expected 2026-27 |
| KJ03 | iPSC-derived iMSD<br>New genes and gene<br>editing | Inflammatory,<br>Oncology and<br>other diseases | Discovery                              |                                       | TBD              |

Continuous platform development maximizes the efficacy for multiple diseases

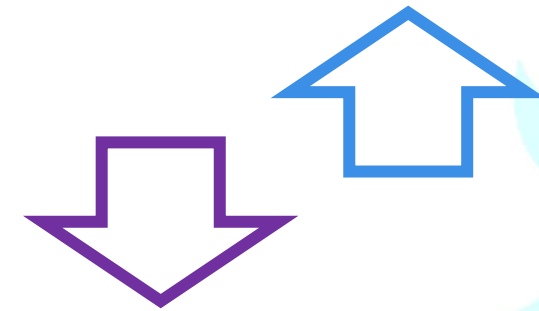


## IMPROVED GvHD CLINICAL SCORE



## Anti-inflammatory profile

- Modulatory factors (IL10, PGE2, TGFb, FoxP3)
- Regulatory T-cells (CD4+CD25+FoxP3+)
- Regulatory B-cells secreting IL10

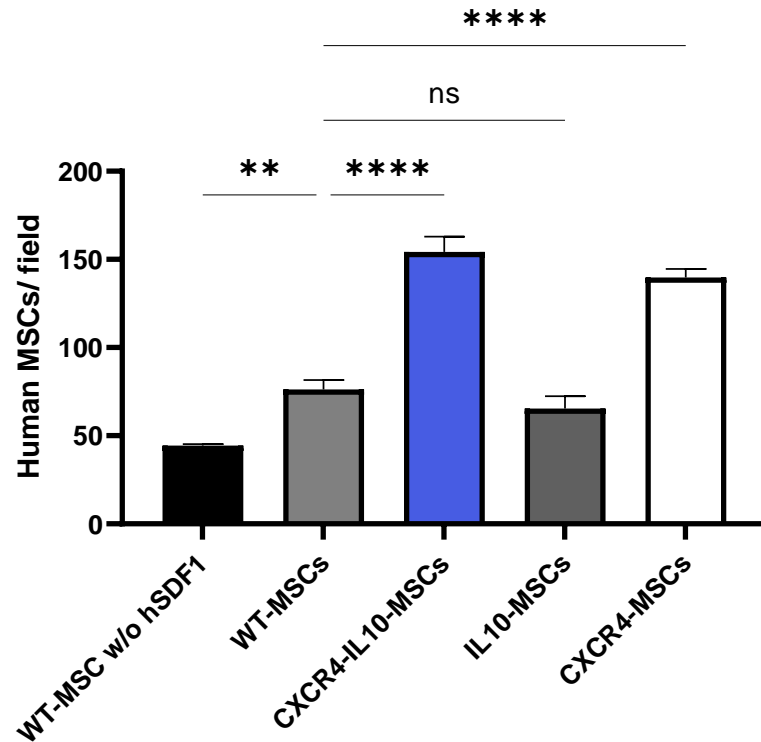


## Pro-inflammatory profile

- T-cell proliferation in blood and spleen
- Effector T-cell CD4+ & CD8+ subpopulations
- mRNA and secretion of proinflammatory cytokines (IL17, IL22)

# IL-10/CXCR4 expression improves MSC functionalities *in vitro*

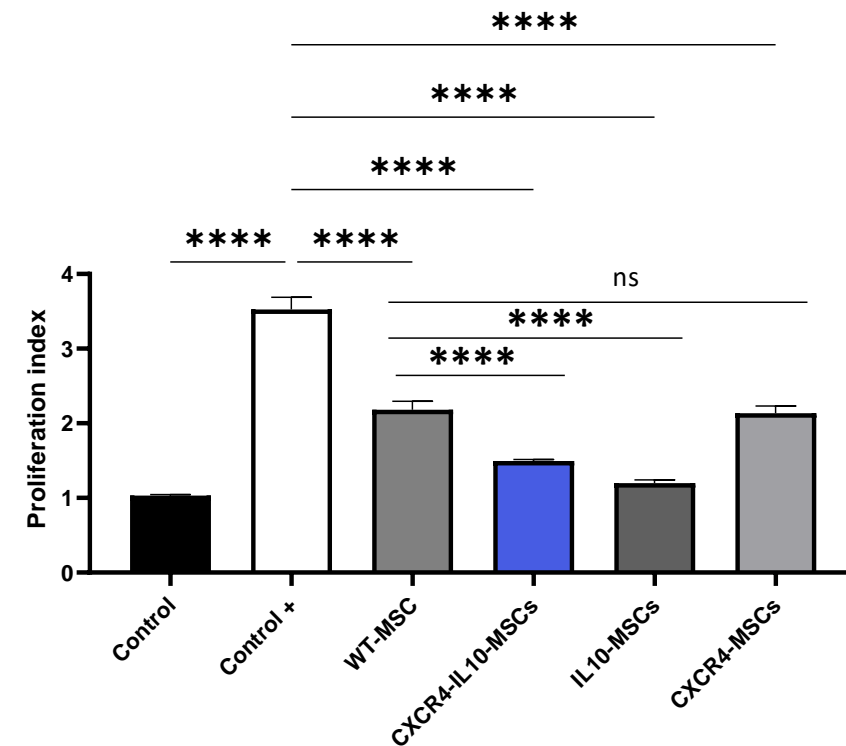
## MIGRATION TRANSWELL ASSAY



### Enhanced Migration:

CXCR4-MSCs and CXCR4-IL10-MSCs evidenced an enhanced migration capacity to human SDF1 $\alpha$ , compared with WT-MSCs and with IL10-MSCs.

## IMMUNOSUPPRESSION ASSAY

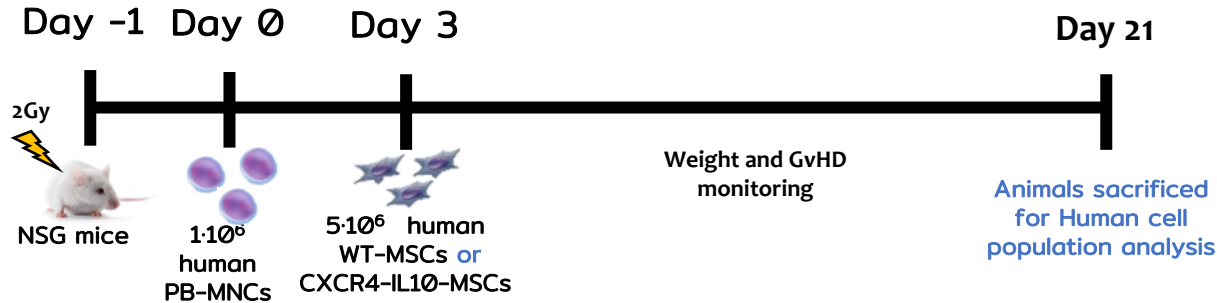


### Better Immunosuppression:

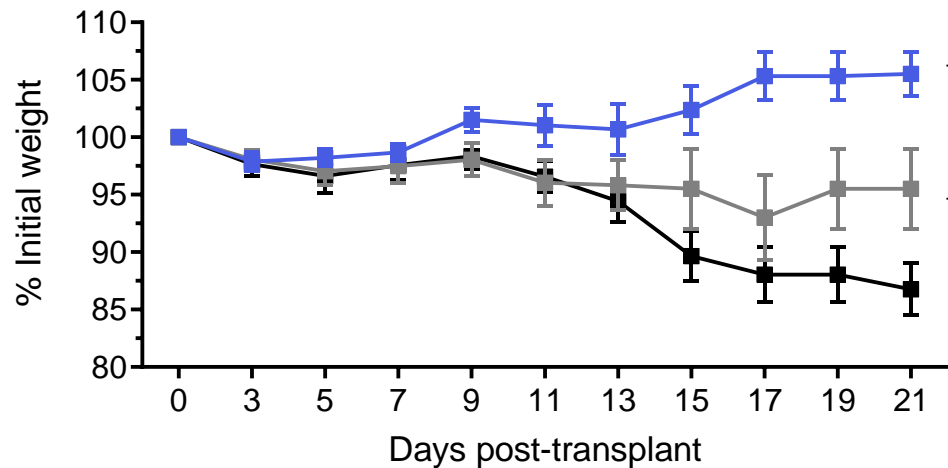
$\alpha$ CD3/IL2 stimulated T-cell proliferation significantly reduced by all MSCs. Significantly higher inhibition achieved with CXCR4-IL10-MSCs and IL10-MSCs compared with wild type (WT).

# IL-10/CXCR4 MSCs are more effective against GvHD

## Humanized GvHD mouse model

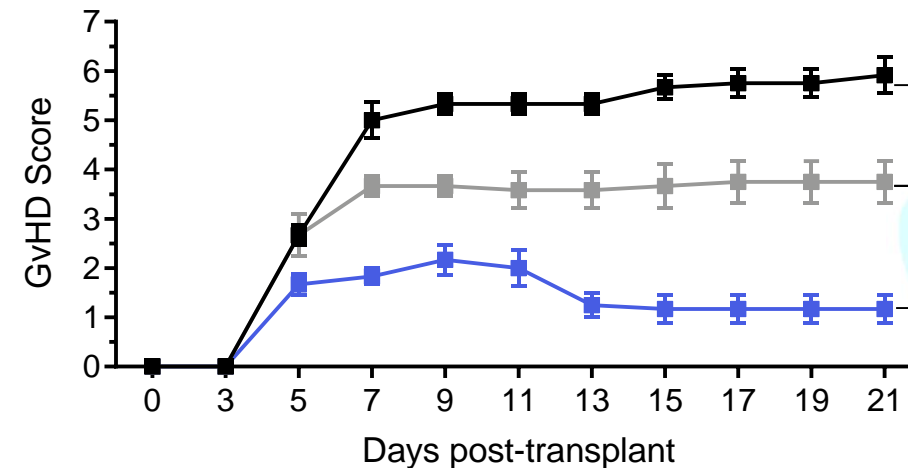


## Weight evolution



**NO WEIGHT LOSS**

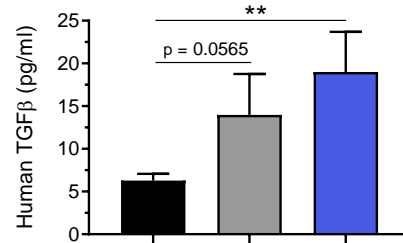
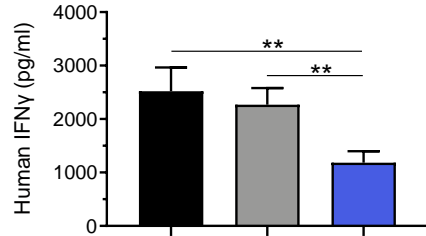
## GvHD clinical score



**LESS SEVERE SIGNS OF ILLNESS**

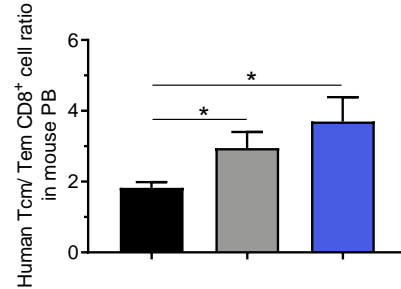
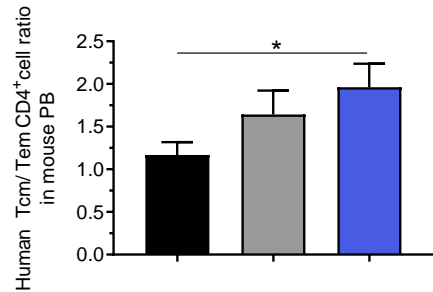
\*p < 0.05; \*\*p < 0.01; \*\*\*p < 0.001

# IL-10/CXCR4 MSC immunomodulatory MoA



## Serum anti-Inflammatory cytokine profile

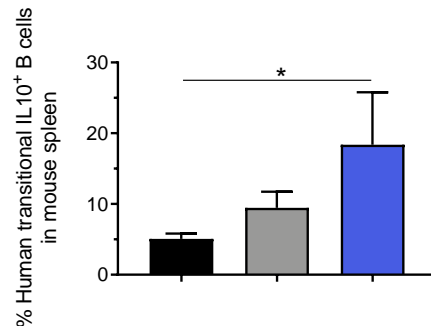
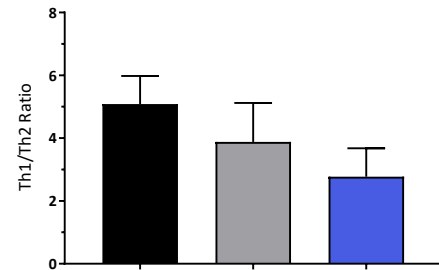
- Reduced levels of pro-inflammatory cytokines:
  - IFN $\gamma$ ; IL17 $\alpha$ ; IL1 $\beta$ ; IL8; IL12; TNF
- Increased levels of anti-inflammatory cytokines:
  - IL10; TGF $\beta$ ; IL6



## Blood anti-inflammatory lymphocyte profile

Human CD4 and CD8 Lymphocytes

- T central memory vs  $\uparrow$  T effector memory  $\downarrow$
- T effector vs  $\downarrow$  T naïve cells  $\uparrow$



## Regulatory T and B profile in spleen

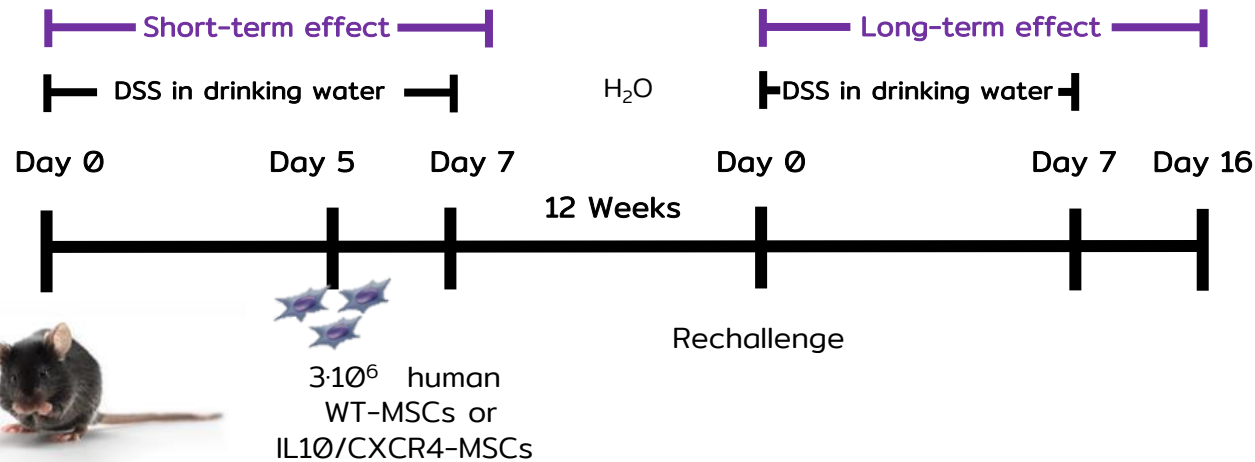
T Lymphocytes showing a lower TH1/Th2 ratio

- IL10 Treg and  $\uparrow$  IFN $\gamma$  Inflammatory T cells  $\downarrow$
- Spleen human Breg Lymphocytes
  - IL10 transitional Breg and  $\uparrow$  memory Breg  $\uparrow$

■ GvHD   ■ WT-MSCs   ■ CXCR4-IL10-MSCs

# Improved efficacy in IBD with IL10/CXCR4-MSCs

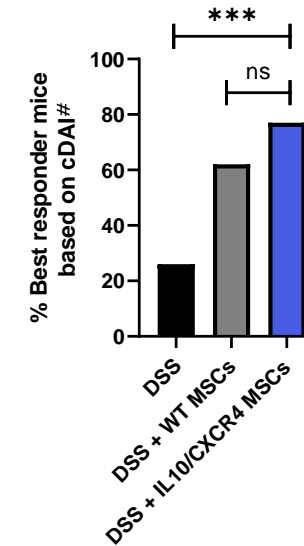
## DSS-induced colitis mouse model



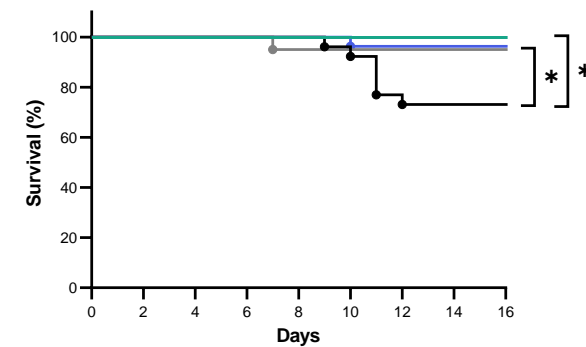
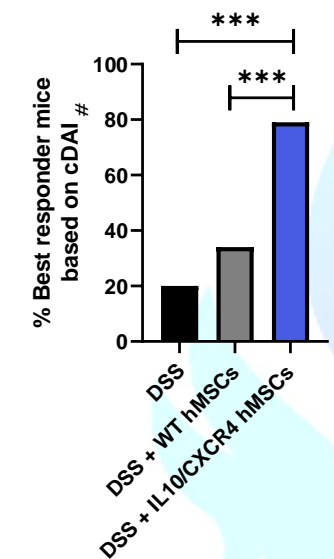
C57 BL/6 or RAG-1<sup>-/-</sup> C57BL/6

Improved efficacy with IL10-CXCR4  
Long-term effect  
Potential effect on innate immune system

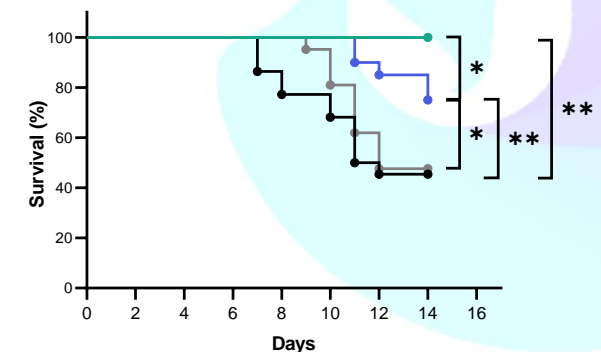
## Short-term effect



## Long-term effect



Healthy DSS  
DSS + WT MSCs DSS + IL10/CXCR4 MSCs



Healthy DSS  
DSS + WT MSCs DSS + IL10/CXCR4 MSCs

# Cumulative Disease Activity Index; Best responders (mice at top 25<sup>th</sup> percentile of CDAI)

# GvHD: Still a significant unmet medical need

Common **complication of allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant** (HSCT) with a significant morbidity and mortality (overall >10%). **Orphan Drug Indication.**

**Non-existing treatment options** for steroid resistant and ruxolitinib resistant or intolerant acute GvHD (**25% of total patients**).

Over 50% patients with no response and **mortality up to 68% vs 35%** in steroid responders

Poor second line options, with significant toxicities, failure rates and poor survival:

- JAK inhibitors: ruxolitinib (approved in US and Europe for 2<sup>nd</sup> line)
- Extracorporeal photophoresis (ECP)
- Anti-TNF $\alpha$  antibodies 1 (infliximab 2, etanercept 2); Anti-IL-2R antibodies (daclizumab, basiliximab, inolimomab)
- Mycophenolate mofetil 1 (immunodepressor); Antithymocyte globulin (ATG)

**GvHD market** in the 7 MM\* was **\$383M in 2018**, projected to be \$819M in 2028 (CAGR of 7,9% 2018 to 2022)

**3,400- 4,900 patients without standard treatment / year**

Joint Working Group established by the British Committee for Standards in Hematology and the British Society for Bone Marrow Transplantation  
American Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation  
F. Malard et al, Treatment and unmet needs in steroid-refractory acute graft-versus-host disease. Leukemia, 2020  
Kelly, K and Rasko, JEJ, Mesenchymal Stromal Cells for the Treatment of Graft Versus Host Disease, Frontiers in Immunology (2021)  
Westin, JR, et al, Steroid-Refractory Acute GVHD: Predictors and Outcomes, Advances in Hematology, (2011)  
Allied Market Research

(\*) 7MM: US, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, UK, and Japan



# KJ01 Target Product Profile; Phase I/IIa

## KJ01 – TPP

- Allogeneic; Donor-derived
- Adipose-derived stromal cells (CXCR4/IL10)
- Cryopreserved Vials: 35 and 50 Million cells (3,5 and 50x10<sup>7</sup>)
- Bed-side thaw and administration
- Target dose/regimen:  
Combination of 2 dose level formulations (1,8–2 Million KJ01/Kg)
- Regimen: 4 IV infusions, weekly

| Study                | Phase I/IIa – FIH and PoC<br>Collaboration with Ciemat/CUN; 5 sites in Spain  |
|----------------------|---|
| Indication           | Steroid resistant and failure or non-eligible for ruxolitinib aGvHD   |
| Target patient       | Age between 18 and 75 old with grade II-IV aGvHD<br>Steroid-refractory and non-eligible or ruxolitinib refractory patients  |
| Design               | Open Label (OL); Dose ascending<br>N=15 patients in 2 cohorts: low (n=3) and standard dose (n=12)   |
| Main Objective       | Feasibility and safety assessment (AEs and SAEs) at 28 days   |
| Secondary Objectives | aGVHD stage/grade evolution<br><b>Response status</b> (CR; PR; OR) at 28, 100 days 12 months<br>( <b>Target:</b> Superior to ±60% OR at 28 days)<br>Time to 1 <sup>st</sup> response and time to best response; OS at day 100 and 12 months; Biomarkers |

## Competition

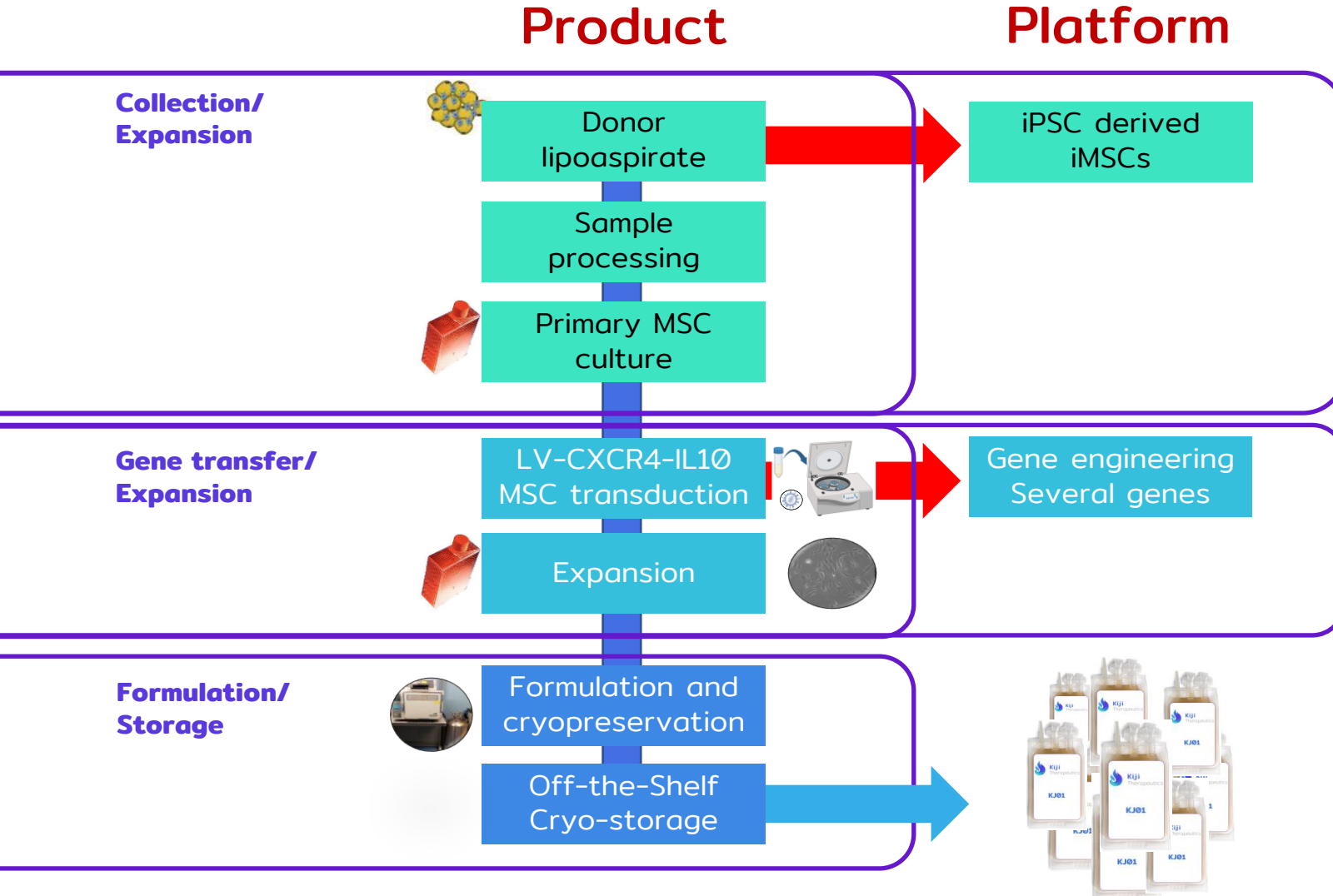
### Jakafi (Ruxolitinib – JAK 1-2 inhibitor)

- Approved US and EU (2022)
- Phase 2 OL: Reach 1: OR (CR+PR): 54,9%
- Phase III Controlled – Reach 2: OR (CR+PR): 62%
- AE: Cytopenia, infection

### Remestemcel-L (unmodified MSCs)

- Several Studies – Adults: 35–65%
- Phase III – Pediatric (post-hoc): OR (CR+PR) 64%
- Well tolerated
- Mesoblast/FDA study in 3<sup>rd</sup> line aGvHD – September 2023

# Allogeneic, cryopreserved, off-the-shelf iPSC derived engineered cell product



## Platform manufacturing process

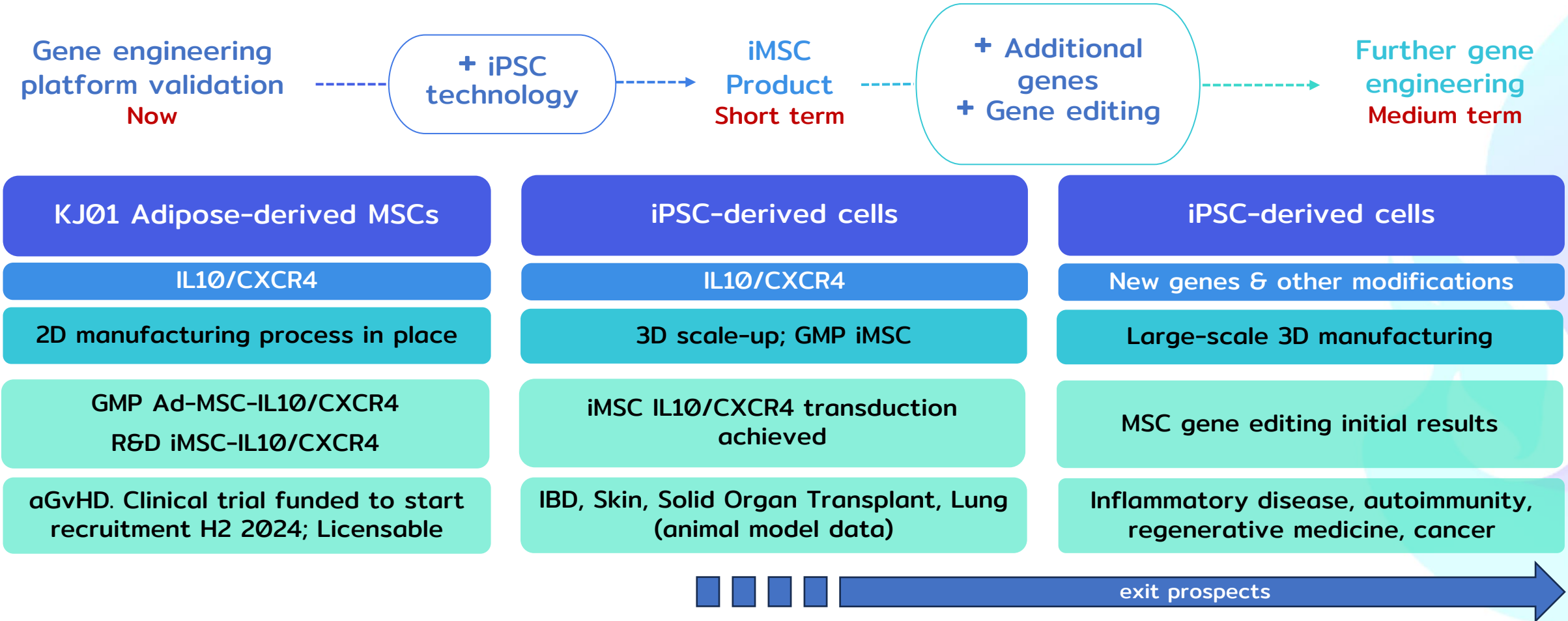
- **MSC source:** Ad-MSC; iMSC
- **Established characteristics, release criteria and potency assay**
- **Flexibility, consistency and efficiency**
- **Low COGS:** a fully used donor collection delivers 1000's doses
- Formulated **ready for direct IV administration**

## Release and in-process controls

- **GMP control**
- **VCN**
- **CXCR4 expression**
- **IL10 expression**
- **Potency assay**

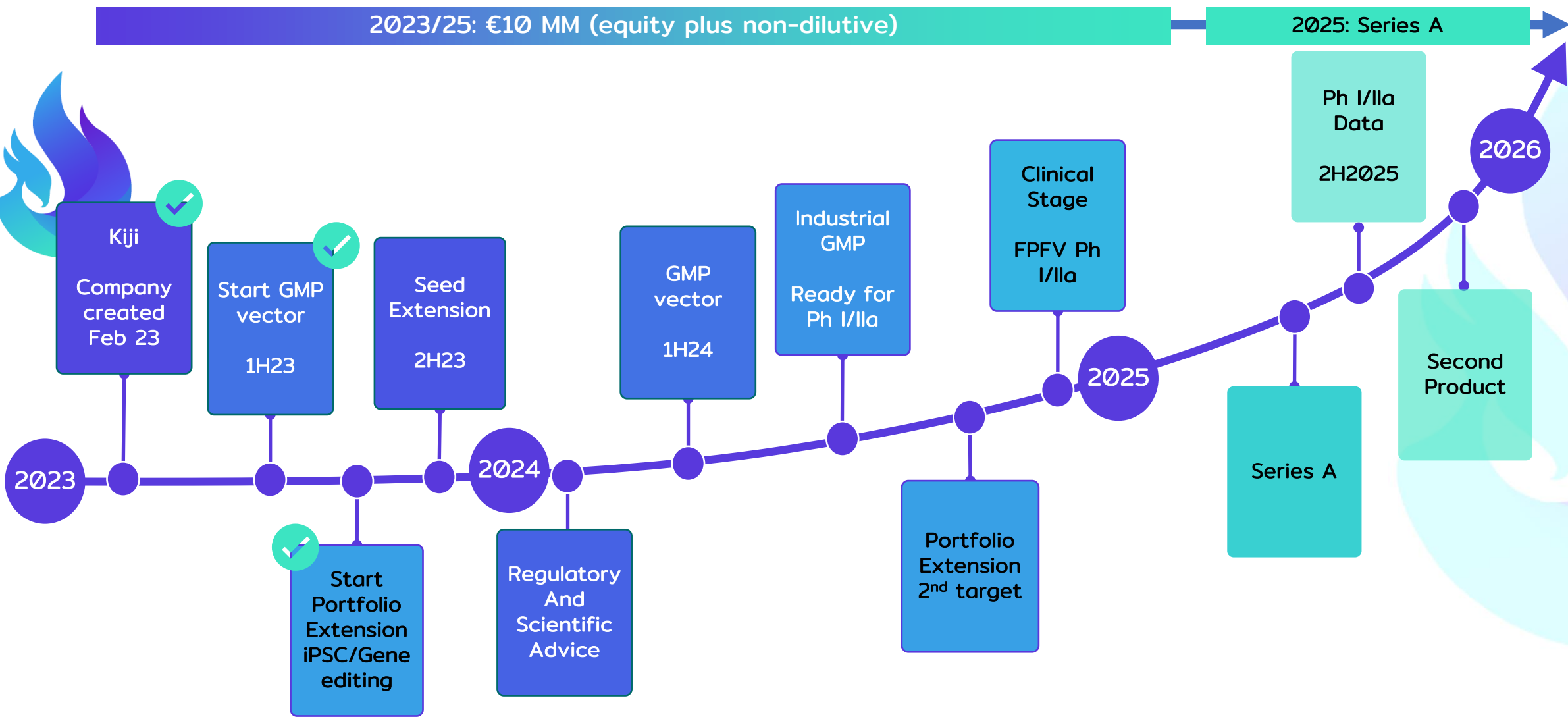
# Continuous platform development

## Gene engineering for efficacy and iPSC for manufacturing

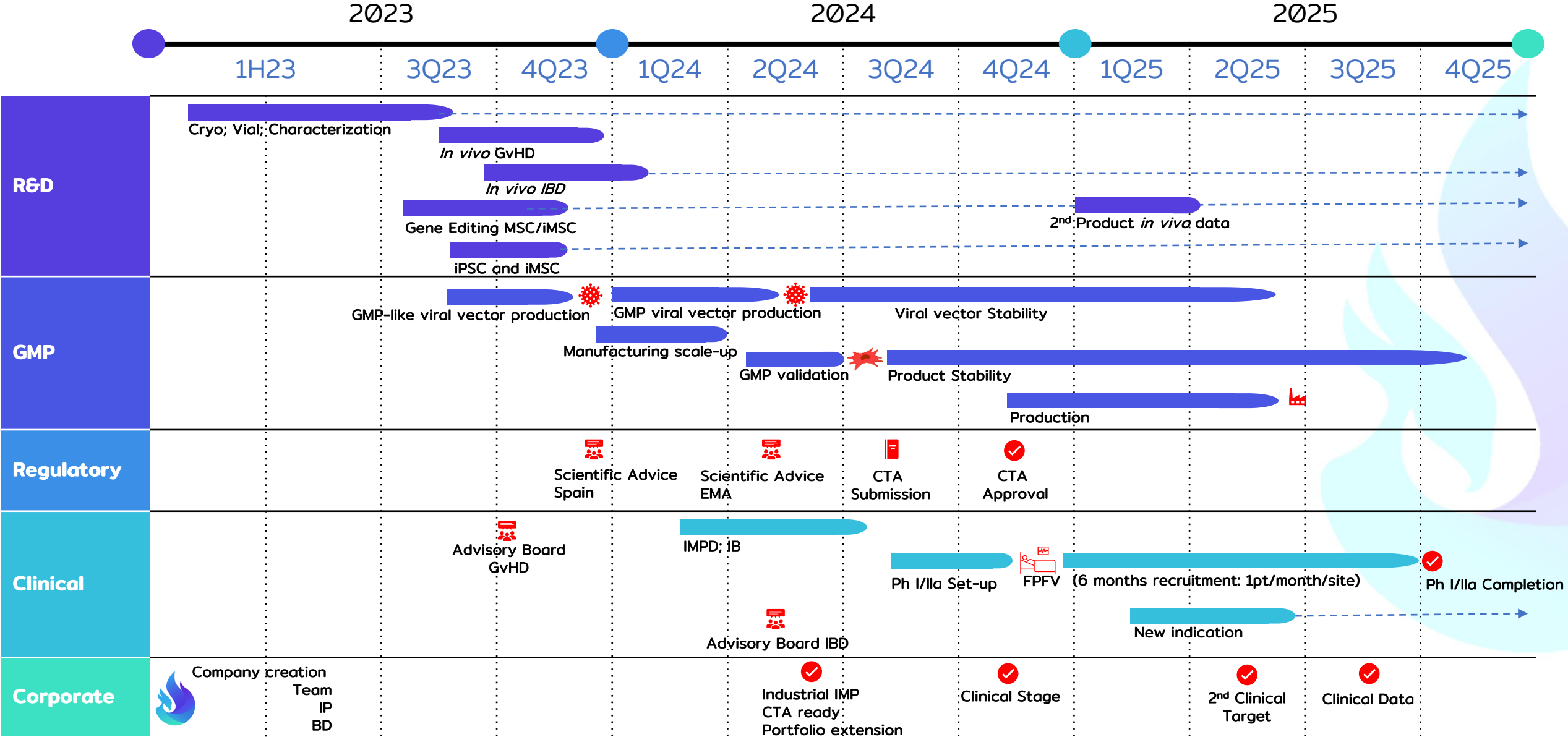


Value proposition platform development will maintain Kiji Tx leading position in the field and increase exit prospects

# Milestones and Inflection points



# KJ01 activities and associated milestones



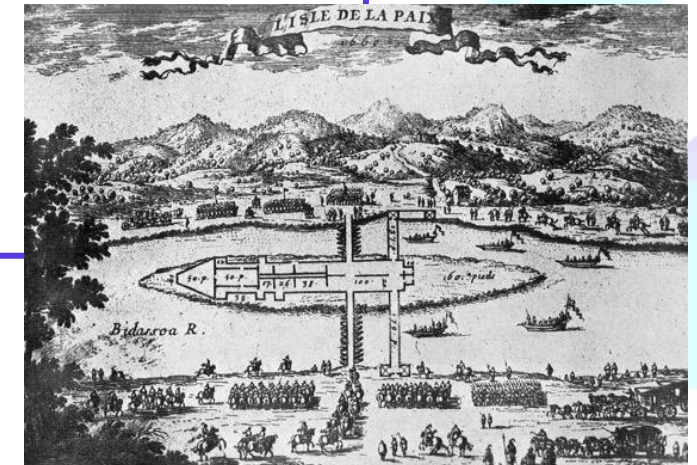
# Take-away message:

## Transformative gene engineered iMSC platform/portfolio

- ✓ Addressing unmet medical needs in autoimmune diseases
- ✓ Established rationale with PoC
- ✓ Industrial GMP product available in 1 year
- ✓ Nearly clinical stage ready with clinical data expected in 2 years
- ✓ Strong team and available operational capabilities

**Kiji to be the leading company in gene engineered cell therapies with MSCs-iPSC**

**€10 MM to clinically validate gene engineering approach and develop iPSC/iMSC platform**





iPSC/MSC engineered cell therapy for inflammatory disease



**KIJI**  
Therapeutics