



# Rare Diseases, Orphan Drugs and Innovation: US FDA Perspective

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# Innovation

- Innovation (*in-uh-vey-shuhn*)
  - Something new or different introduced
  - Introduction of new things or methods
  - The act of introducing something for the first time
  - Making changes in anything established



# Outline

- Rare diseases and orphan drug innovation history
- The coming wave of Orphan products
- How will regulatory agencies meet the challenge: FDA perspective
- Key points

# Early Orphan History

- Rare diseases have often led the way for medical advances
- Early example – LDL cholesterol and atherosclerosis
  - 1938 Carl Müller described familial hypercholesterolemia (FH)
  - ~1963 Avedis Khachadurian described 2 FH forms
    - homozygous (HoFH) and heterozygous (HeFH)
  - 1985 Joseph Goldstein and Michael Brown shared Nobel Prize in Medicine for research on genetic regulation of cholesterol metabolism
    - Identified HMG-CoA reductase and inability to remove LDL from the blood in HoFH children and their HeFH parents<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Goldstein JL, Brown MS, Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 1973;70(10):2804-2808.

## Early Orphan History (2)

- 1987 lovastatin first HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor approved in US
- ~60 million Americans receiving lipid-lowering therapy
- All-time highest grossing prescription drugs in US
  1. Atorvastatin (Lipitor) \$7.2 billion
  2. Esomeprazole (Nexium) \$6.3 billion
  3. Clopidogrel Plavix \$6.1 billion
  8. Rosuvastatin (Crestor) \$3.8 billion
  10. Erythropoietin alfa (Epogen) \$3.3 billion

## Early Orphans (3) -- FH

- HoFH – 1 in a million
  - Still no drugs approved in US for its treatment
  - LDL apheresis, liver transplantation
- HeFH – ~1:500 in many populations
  - Numerous therapeutics, e.g., statins, bile acids, other drugs
- Investigational agents in clinical trials in HoFH
  - Clinicaltrials.gov lists 22 studies in various phases, e.g., Phase 3
  - Anti-sense oligonucleotide (AON) (mipomersen)<sup>2</sup>
    - Targets mRNA for apolipoprotein B
  - Microsomal triglyceride transfer protein (MTP) inhibitor (lomitapide)<sup>3</sup>
    - MTP necessary for VLDL assembly and secretion

<sup>2</sup>Visser ME et al. Mipomersen...R DB PC trial. Eur Heart J 2012;33(9):1142-1149

<sup>3</sup>Cuchel M et al. Inhibition of MTP in FH. N ENgl J Med 2007;356(2):148-156.

# Orphans --Mid-term History

- Hematopoietic Neoplastic Diseases with Orphan Drugs Approved
  - Acute Myelogenous Leukemia (AML)
  - Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia (APL)
  - Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia (CML)
  - Acute Lymphocytic Lymphoma (ALL)
  - Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL)
    - B-Cell CLL (B-CLL)
  - Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma (NHL)
  - Hodgkins lymphoma (HL)
  - T Cell Lymphoma (TCL)
  - Peripheral T Cell Lymphoma (PTCL)
  - Cutaneous T Cell Lymphoma (CTCL)
  - Multiple Myeloma (MM)
  - Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS)
  - Myelofibrosis (MF)
  - Anaplastic large cell lymphoma (ALCL)

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## Orphan Midterms (2)

- Orphan drugs that have changed practice standards -- partial list
  - Imatinib for CML
  - ATRA and  $ASO_3$  for APL
  - Rituximab for CLL and NHL
  - Azacitidine, decitabine and lenalidomide for MDS
  - Bortezomib, phenylalanine mustard, thalidomide and lenalidomide for MM



# Evolution of Imatinib

## CML

- P210Bcr-Abl protein kinase leads to genetic instability and unregulated signals for cell proliferation and survival

## Imatinib

- Small molecule binds to ATP binding site of Abl kinase to inhibit phosphorylation of P210Bcr-Abl
- Induces CCyR in 85% of CP CML

## Pediatric CML

- 2<sup>nd</sup> line AA 2003, n=14
- 1<sup>st</sup> line AA 2006, n=51

## CML (n~2100 pts 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> line)

- 2<sup>nd</sup> line Accelerated AP 2001, 1<sup>st</sup> line AA 2002
- 2<sup>nd</sup> line full AP 2003, 1<sup>st</sup> line full AP 2009

## Ph+ ALL - related disease

- 2<sup>nd</sup> line AP 2006, n=50

## Different diseases, different kinase mechanism

- MDS with mutated PDGF, n=7
- GIST mutated c-Kit, n=147
- Hypereosinophilic syndrome, Abl, Kit or PDGFR, n=14
- DMF protuberans, PDGF 7(17/22) n=12
- Aggressive systemic mastocytosis, Alb, Kit or PDGFR, n=5

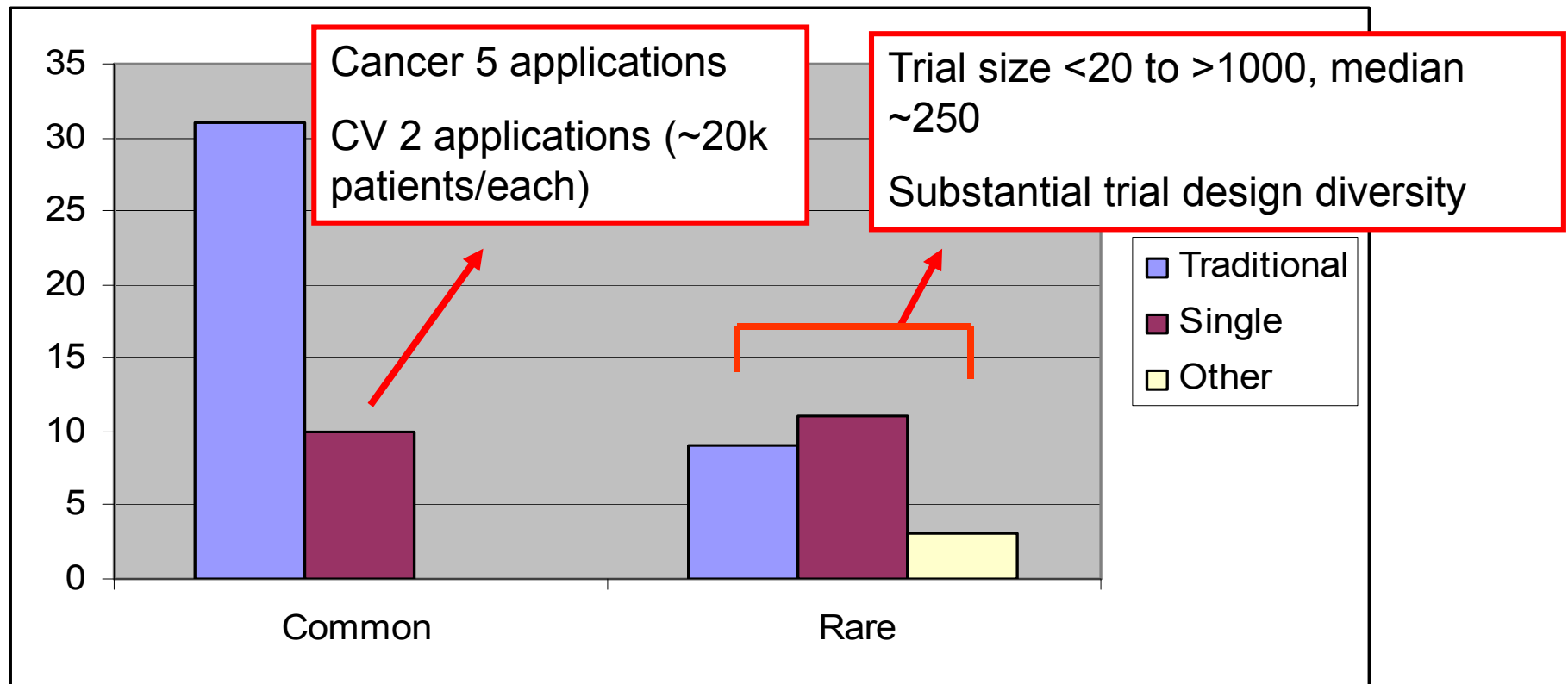
With thanks to Albert  
Deisseroth M.D., Ph.D.,  
US FDA DHP

# Recent Orphan History

- From January 1, 2010-May 20, 2012 at CDER
  - 46 Rare/Orphan Approvals
    - 23 NMEs and new biologics, ~1/3 of CDER's total
    - 23 repurposed
  - First-ers
    - Companion diagnostics
    - ~50% no regulatory/disease precedent
      - Vs. common disease <10%
  - Smaller patient populations
    - Common disease → targeted subpopulation
      - E.g., crizotinib for ALK+ non-small cell lung CA
      - vemurafenib for BRAF+ melanoma
    - Rare disease → targeted subpopulation
      - E.g., ivacaftor for Cystic Fibrosis

# Recent History -- Level of Evidence

## 2010-2012 NMEs and New Biologics

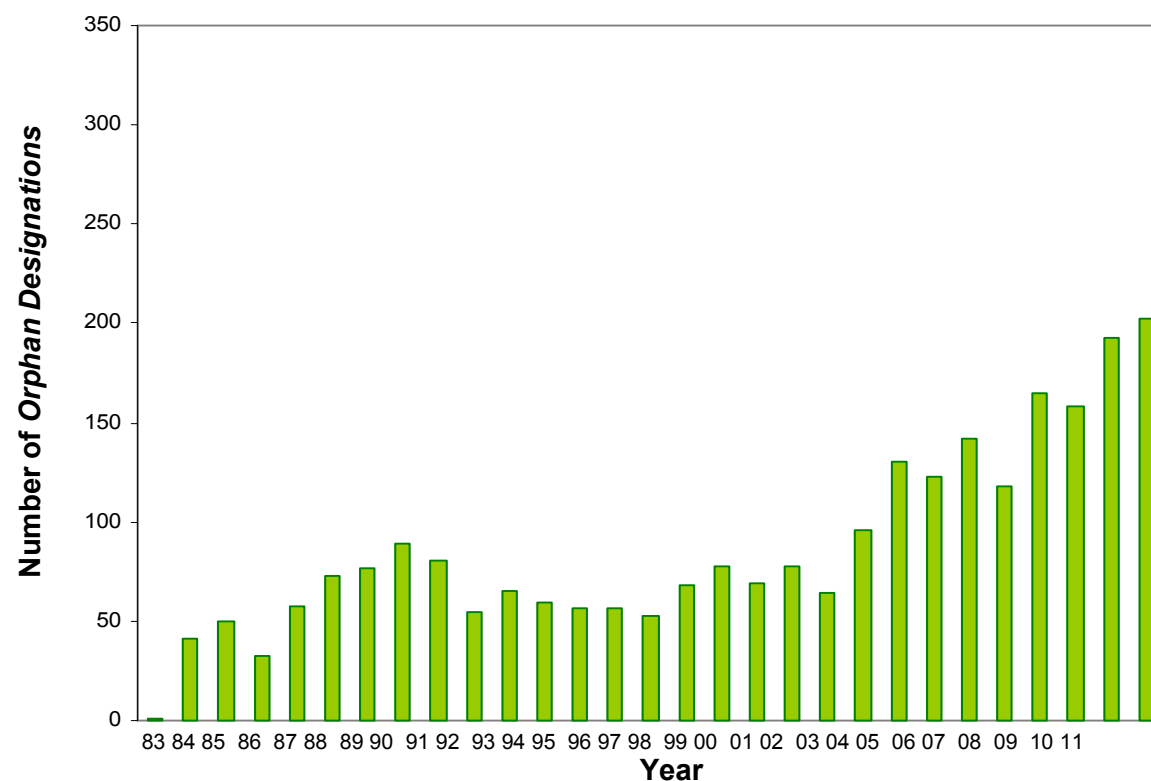




# The Coming Wave of Orphan Products

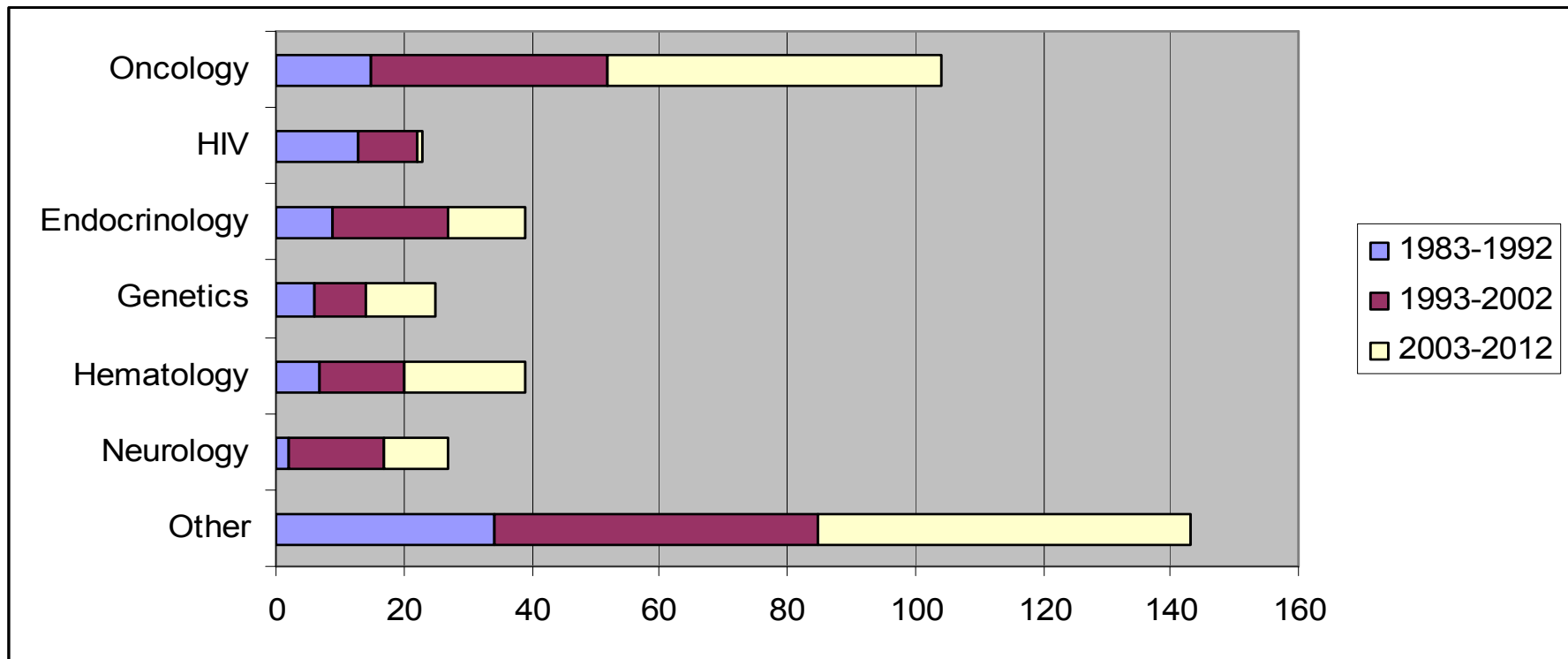
# Orphan Designations

**~2600 Products have received Orphan Designation**  
**-- Products are designated in pre-IND or IND phases**



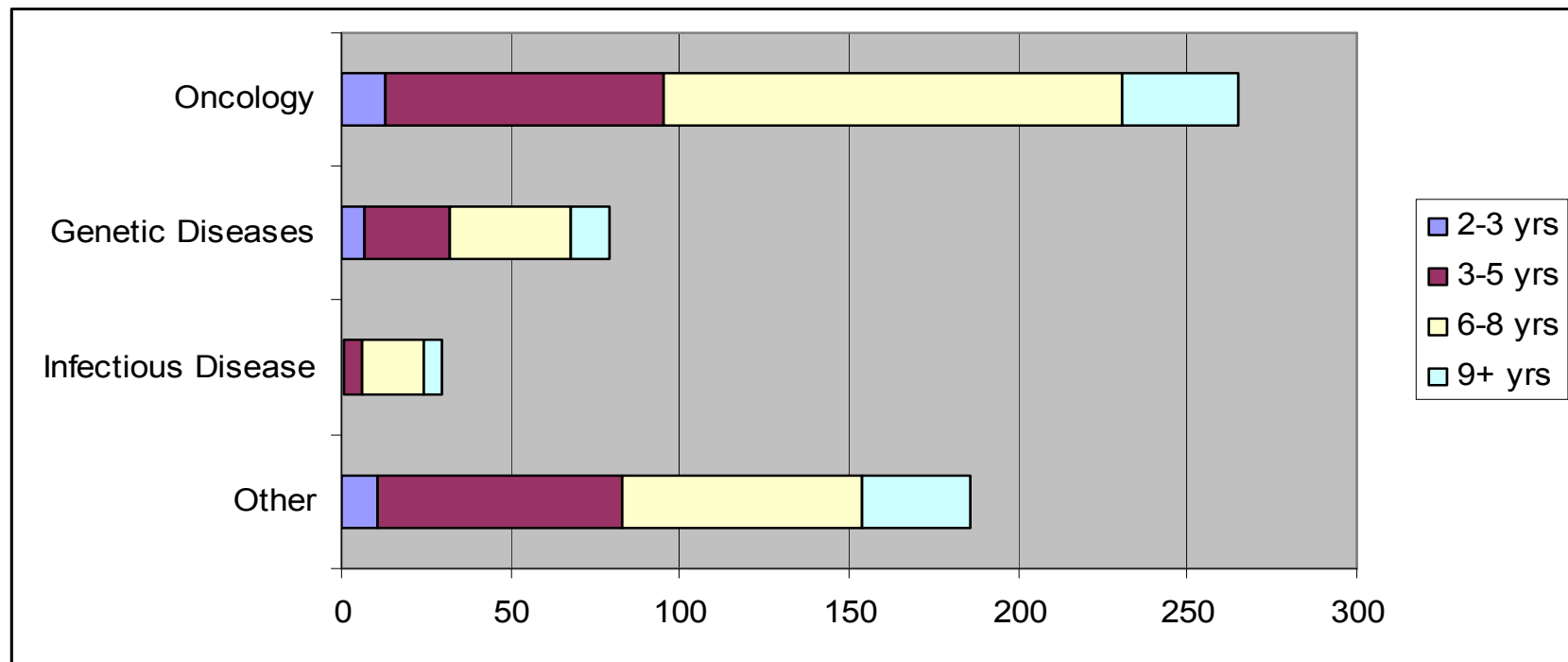
Slide courtesy of Gayatri Rao, MD, JD, Office of Orphan Products Development, US FDA. Source: Search Orphans Drug Designations and Approvals, available at: [www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/opdlisting/oopd/](http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/opdlisting/oopd/)

# Orphans by Therapeutic Area 1983-2012



Source: Search Orphans Drug Designations and Approvals, available at:  
<http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/opdlisting/oopd/> Last accessed May 20, 2012

# Future Projections/Estimates-- Orphan Designated Products



Source: Castellani JJ. Orphans Drugs in Development for Rare Diseases. 2011, available at: [www.phrma.org/sites/default/files/878/rarediseases2011.pdf](http://www.phrma.org/sites/default/files/878/rarediseases2011.pdf)



# Meeting the Challenge



# Rare Diseases and Orphan Drugs

- What is different about rare diseases and Orphan drugs?
  - Diseases are usually poorly or incompletely understood
    - Generally, the lower the prevalence, the less well we tend to understand them
  - Small populations
    - Limited opportunity for study and replication
  - Highly heterogeneous group of disorders
    - 7,000 different diseases
    - Often high phenotypic diversity within individual disorders
  - Usually little precedent for drug development within individual disorders
  - Often requires more (and more careful) planning than non-Orphan
    - Need a solid scientific base upon which to build an overall program

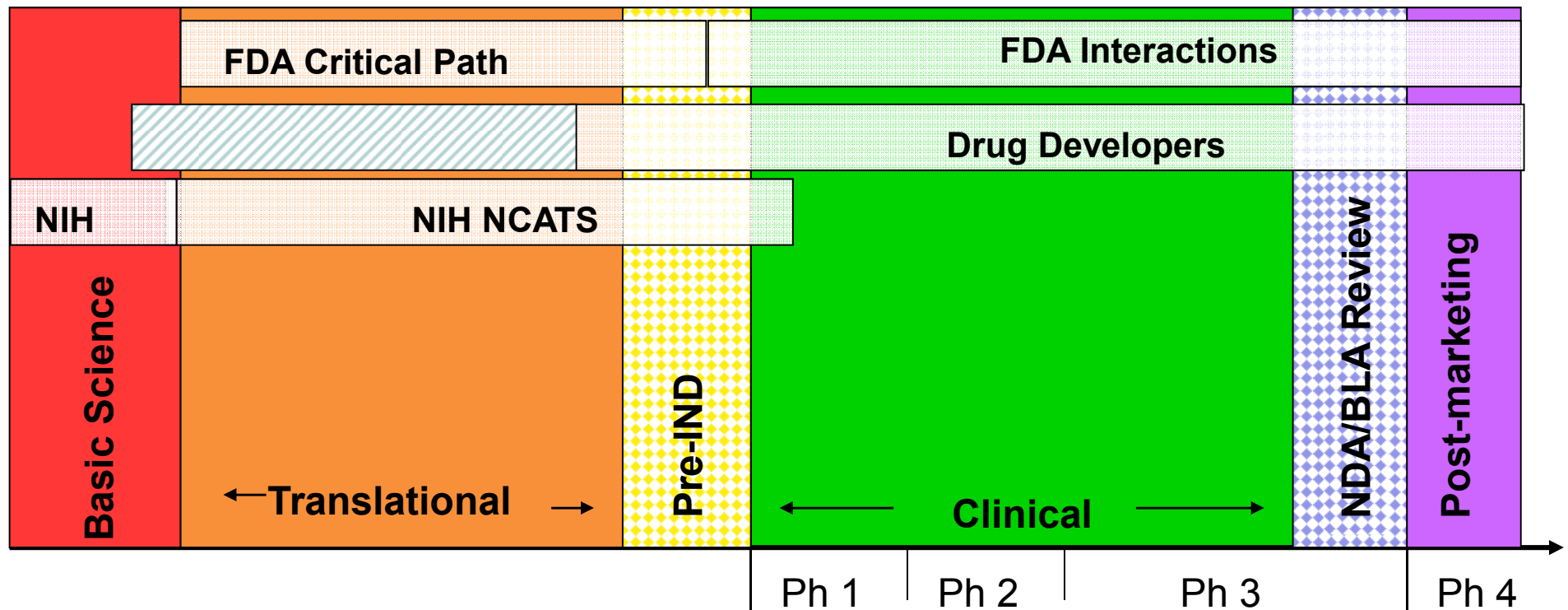


# CDER New Molecular Entities & New Biologic Approvals 2011-2012

Disease Precedent ?	
Yes	No
<b>2012</b> (as of May 20, 2012) Respiratory Distress Syndrome in premature infants Gaucher disease	Methotrexate toxicity Cystic Fibrosis <i>G551D</i> mutation
<b>2011</b> Organ rejection, kidney transplant Hodgkins lymphoma Hereditary Angioedema Acute lymphoblastic leukemia Transfusional iron overload Lennox-Gastaut	Advanced melanoma Melanoma <i>BRAF</i> mutation Medullary thyroid cancer Anaplastic systemic large cell lymphoma Alk+ non-small cell lung cancer Myelofibrosis

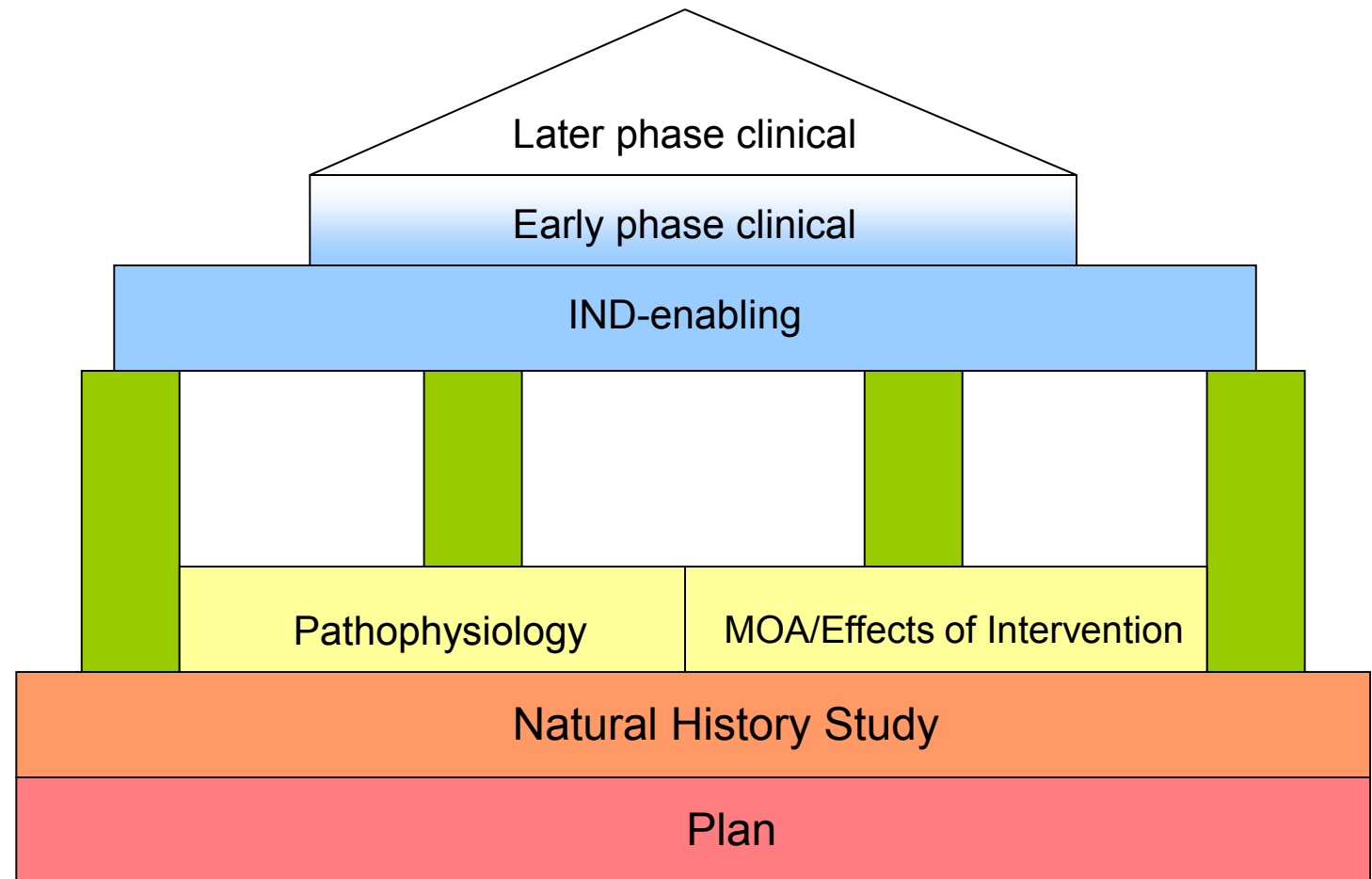
• In same time period for non-rare disease indications: 24 NME/NBs, only 2 did not have disease precedent (8%)

# Drug Development - Linear Concept



# Parallel Concept -- Foundation Building

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Efficacy trial design</li> <li>•Time course</li> <li>•Target population</li> <li>•COA</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Pilot COAs</li> <li>•Safety</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Non-clinical P/T             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Population</li> <li>•Toxicities</li> </ul> </li> <li>•Dose exploration</li> <li>•Bmkr/COA exploration</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Biomarker and COAs ID and development</li> <li>•Assays/testing</li> <li>•Diagnostics</li> <li>•Animal models</li> </ul>

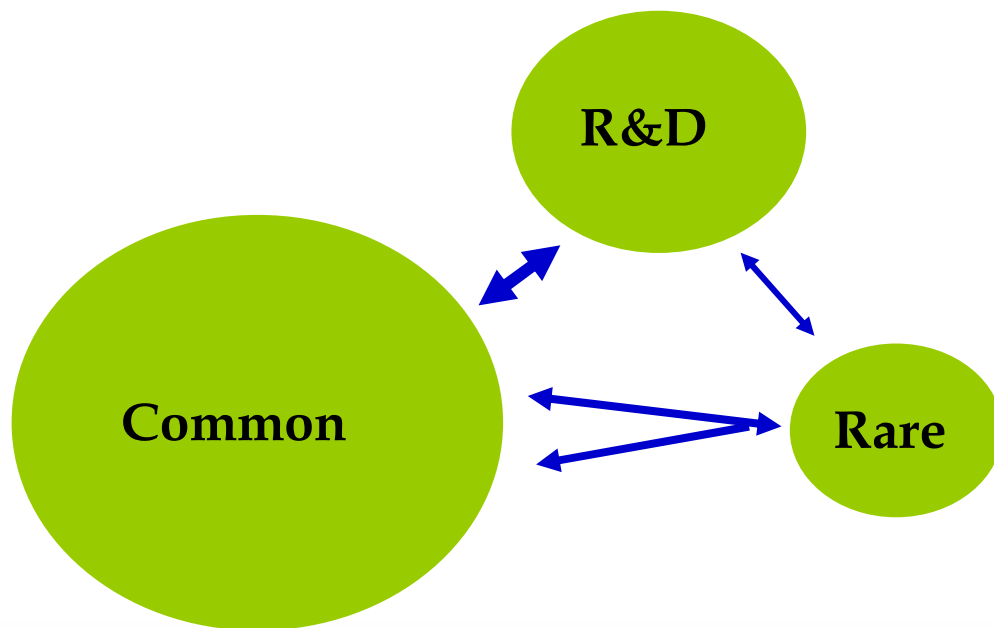




# Key Points

## Key Point #1: Rare diseases = Innovation

- Rare diseases have often led the way
  - Science
  - Medicine
  - Product innovation
  - Procedural innovation (“regulatory flexibility”)



## Key Point #2: Scientific Foundation

- Every indication that Orphans will continue to lead the way – and will increase – in the future
  - Greatest challenge may be in meeting the coming wave, and adapting traditional development plans and “conventional wisdom” to new paradigm
    - Industry, regulatory, academia, researchers, advocacy, payors, etc.

### Translational Medicine

Biomarkers

Assays/diagnostics

Animal models

IND enabling

COA/PROs

Dose exploration/modeling

Adaptive/alternate trial design

Planning/Natural History Studies/Registries

## Key Point #3: Disease Diversity



- Monolith (**mon** •uh •lith)
  - an obelisk, column, large statue, etc., formed of a single block of stone
  - Something having a uniform, massive, redoubtable, or inflexible quality or character

Rare diseases are a highly diverse collection of disorders

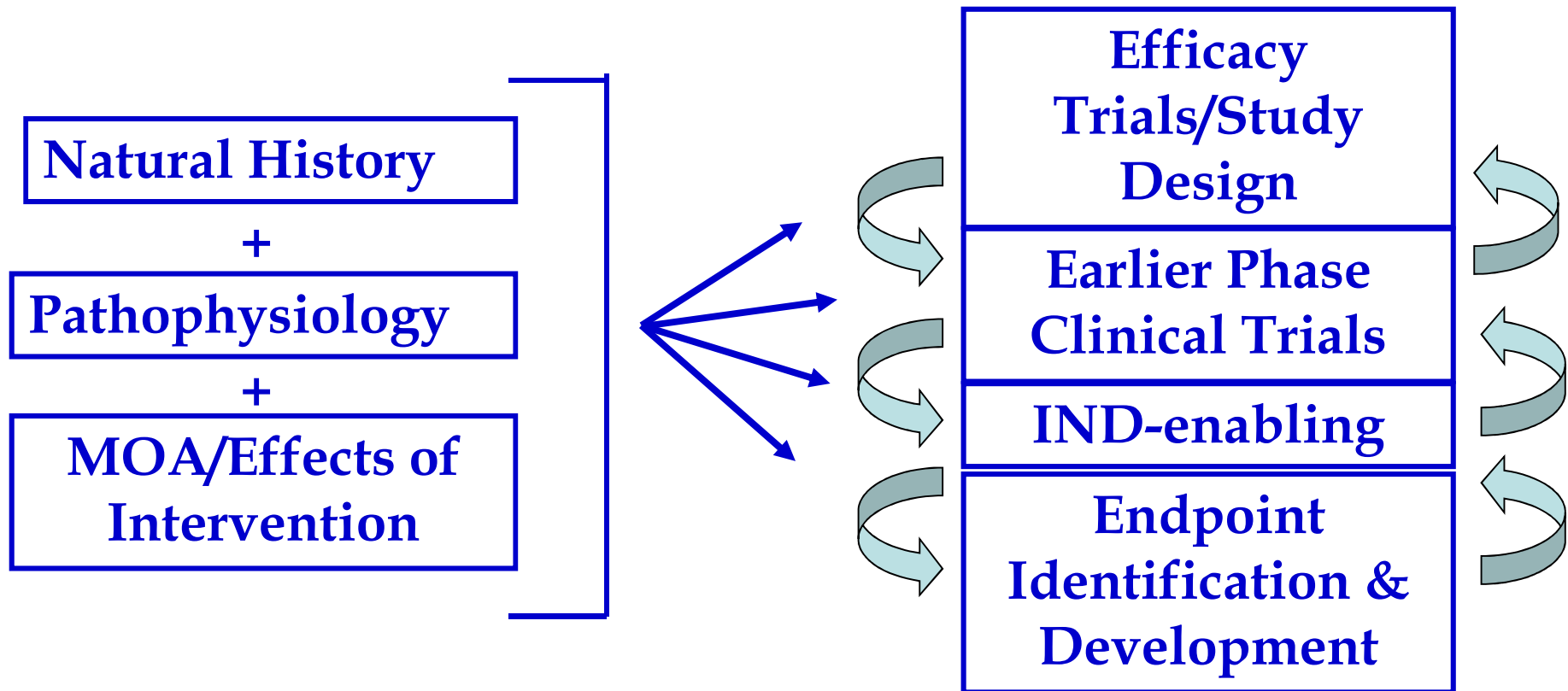
-Design and conduct of clinical development programs are highly individualized

-Dependant on disease and population under study, understanding of the intervention and its expected impact on the disease



# Key Point #4: Drug Development

- Recommend viewing drug development as a continuum
  - Efficiency  $\neq$  corner-cutting
  - Collaboration, feedback loops, foundation building are essential



## Key Point #5: FDA and Rare Diseases

- PDUFA V (proposed) for 2013-2018
  - Increased Rare Diseases Staffing CDER & CBER
  - “Breakthrough” for serious diseases and unmet needs
  - Increased opportunities for interaction between FDA and patients, e.g.,
    - patient-focused drug development
    - benefit-risk assessment framework
  - Staff training
  - Regulatory science development
  - Rare disease evaluation tool

# Summary

Rare Disease Innovation	Yes	No
New or different	✓	
First time	✓	
New methods	✓	
Change in anything established	✓	

- Orphan drug development and approvals have produced a major impact on the treatment of both rare and common diseases
- The advent of targeted therapy in orphan diseases is associated with the application of regulatory flexibility and scientific judgment
- As new targeted therapeutics continue to evolve, approvals for orphan drugs will likely continue to grow in importance



# Acknowledgements

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