**AARC 2023** 

# BXQ-350 may protect peripheral nerves from the direct cytotoxicity of chemotherapeutic agents leading to D chemotherapy induced peripheral neuropathy

- **1. BXQ-350** is a nanovesicle formulation of Saposin C, an allosteric activator of sphingolipid metabolism
  - Normalizes dysregulated sphingolipid metabolism, lowering S1P and increasing ceramides levels
  - **Modulates S1P signaling &** stimulates immune response
- 2. Background: Chemotherapy induced **Peripheral Neuropathy (CIPN) is a** debilitating side-effect from chemotherapy
  - **CIPN causes patients to come off** treatment while decreasing patient quality-of-life
  - BXQ-350 has been shown in vitro, in PC-12 cells, and *in vivo*, in a CIPN mice model, **to be neuroprotective** in the presence of neurotoxic agents
  - Studies have shown **increase in S1P** levels play a factor in propagation of neuropathic pain.

## 3. In-vitro Results, BXQ-350:

- Oxaliplatin, Paclitaxel, MMAE, and Bortezomib are known neurotoxic chemotherapeutics.
- **BXQ-350 allows for neurite** outgrowth, a marker of neuron health, in combination with these agents.



#### S1P signaling activates multiple oncogenes and induces a pro-tumoral immunosuppressive environment

E.g., see Grbcic, P. et al. S1P Signaling and Metabolism in Colon Cancer. Molecules, 2020, 25, 2436.



BXQ-350 in Combination with Neurotoxic Chemotherapuetics



Ray Takigiku, Charlie Cruze, Robin Furnish, Darren Wolfe, Tim Stephens, Gilles Tapolsky, Nikhil Wilkins Bexion Pharmaceuticals, Covington, KY

#### Summary

- BXQ-350 is a novel biologic and a nanovesicle formulation of Saposin C, an allosteric activator of enzymes involved in sphingolipid metabolism
- BXQ-350 increases the ability of neurons to extend neurites compared to wild type and in combination with neurotoxic agents in vitro.
- BXQ-350 increases neuronal cell health and promotes the growth of healthy neurons in vitro.
- BXQ-350 protects against CIPN symptoms in vivo in a dose-dependent manner.
- BXQ-350 modulates sphingolipid metabolism, lowers S1P and increases ceramide levels

## **On-going Studies**

Preclinical studies to illustrate BXQ-350's CIPN MOA

- BXQ-350 is clinically being investigated in: Phase 1/2 study in combination with SoC in newly diagnosed mCRC patients (NCT05322590)
- PoC and PK/PD study in cancer patients with established CIPN (NCT05291286)
- Phase 2 study in combination with radiation in pediatric DIPG/Diffuse Midline Glioma patients (NCT04771897)

families, clinicians and staff at investigational sites, Bexion's personnel

**Acknowledgement:** Patients who participated in the trials and their

**BXQ-350** promotes healthy cell growth compared to untreated or neurotoxic agent treated cells

- BXQ-350 increases C18 levels and decreases S1P levels
- 4. In Vivo Results, BXQ-350:
  - - induced CIPN







Preclinical CIPN mouse model treated with Oxaliplatin, a known neurotoxic agent, or BXQ-350 in combination with Oxaliplatin to determine protection against CIPN Protection was tested via mechanical allodynia

**BXQ-350** showed a dose-dependent increase in protection against Oxaliplatin

**Oxaliplatin vs Combos vs Vehicle** 

- O 2 mg/kg BXQ-350 confers protection against CIPN
- O 10 mg/kg BXQ-350 protects against **CIPN returning mice to near non-CIPN levels**