

## Showcasing C1q Inhibition in Geographic Atrophy Using Light Damage Animal Models

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# **Agenda / Executive Summary**

## Scientific Rationale

- Classical complement pathway implicated in Neurodegenerative (Huntington's Disease) and Autoimmune (Guillain-Barre Syndrome) Diseases
- Classical complement pathway is implicated in Geographic Atrophy; drusen and other breakdown products of photoreceptor digestion activate C1q and the classical pathway

## Laboratory Evidence

- Animal and human pathology specimen show classical complement activation
- Inhibition of C1q is protective against retinal damage and maybe neuroprotective

## Human Experience

- ANX007 good target engagement >29 days
- Phase 1 studies demonstrate favorable safety profile

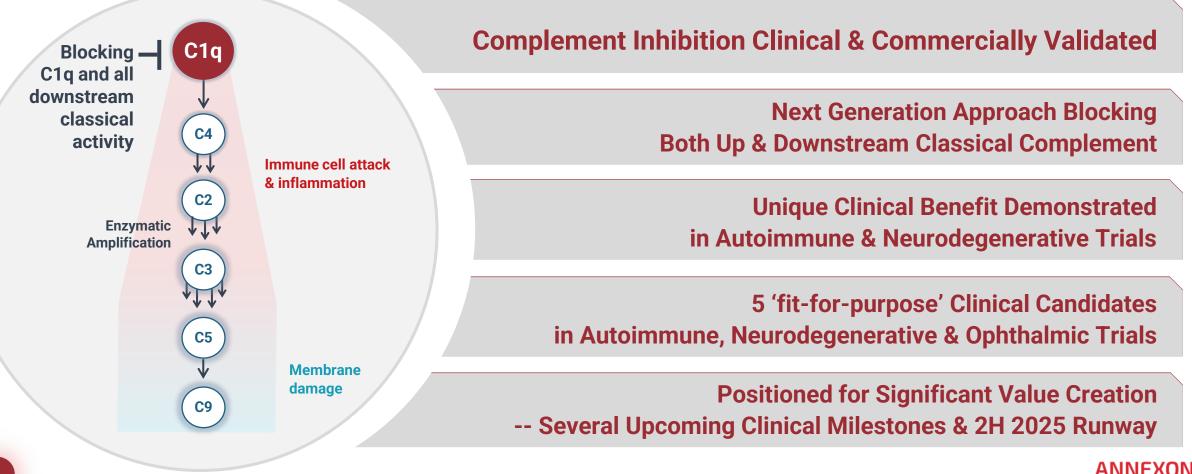
## ARCHER Clinical Trial

- Randomization stratified for lesion location and size
- Phase 2 data anticipated in 1<sup>st</sup> half 2023



## Annexon Pioneering a Powerful Approach to Classical Complement Inhibition

#### **Classical Complement Pathway**



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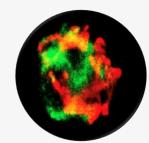
# **C1q: A Key Driver of Complement-Mediated Disease**

Initiator of aberrant or excess complement activity in autoimmune and neurodegenerative diseases

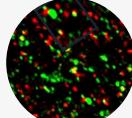
#### Key Takeaways

- C1q is initiating molecule in classical complement cascade
- C1q binds tissue surfaces to **anchor and amplify** complement activation and drive disease
- C1q marks cells and synapses for elimination by microglia and tissue macrophages

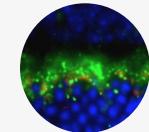
#### Initiator: C1q Binding to Tissues in Disease



Autoimmune Guillain-Barré Syndrome C1q Targeting the Neuromuscular Junction<sup>1</sup>



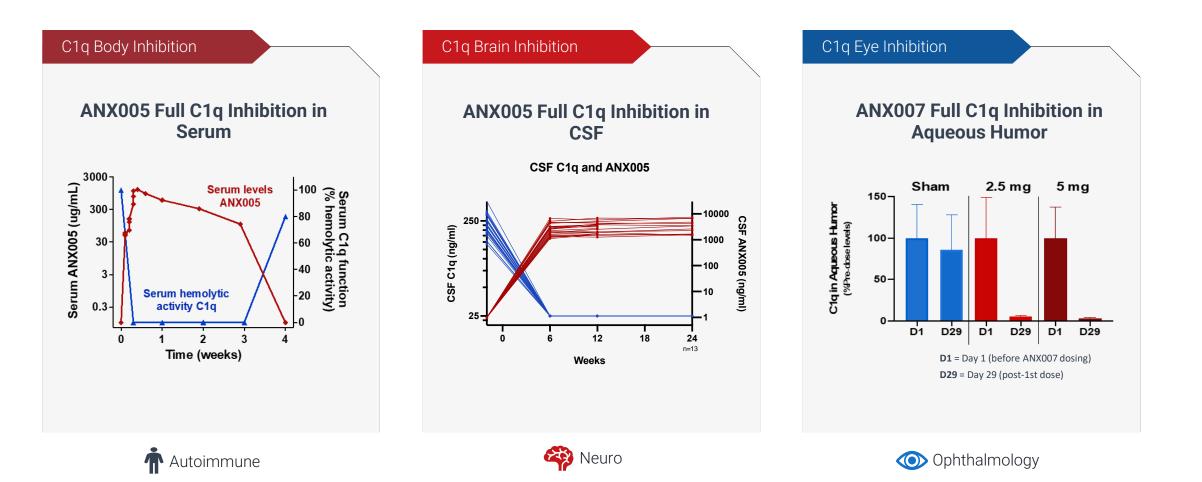
Neurodegeneration Huntington's Disease C1q Targeting Striatal Synapses<sup>2</sup>



Ophthalmologic Geographic Atrophy C1q Targeting Photoreceptor Synapses<sup>3</sup>

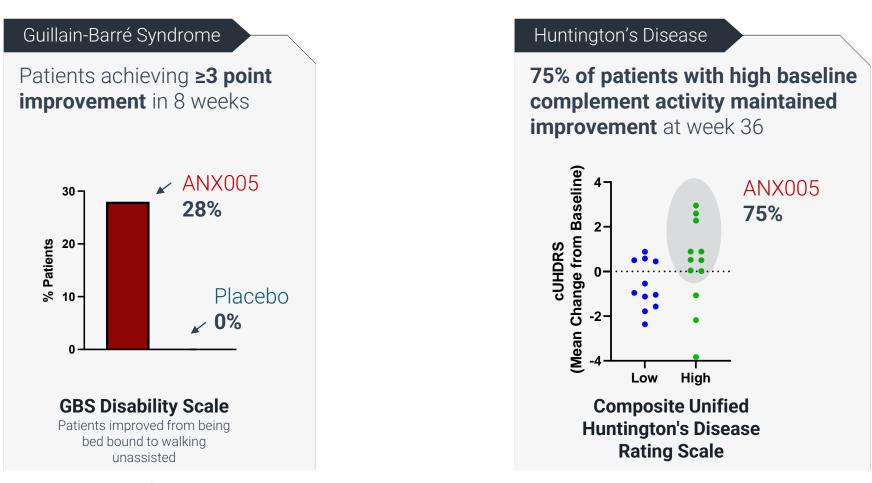


## Annexon's Lead Candidates Demonstrate Robust Target Engagement in Body, Brain and Eye in Clinical Trials





## Upstream Classical Complement Inhibition Associated with Clinical Benefit



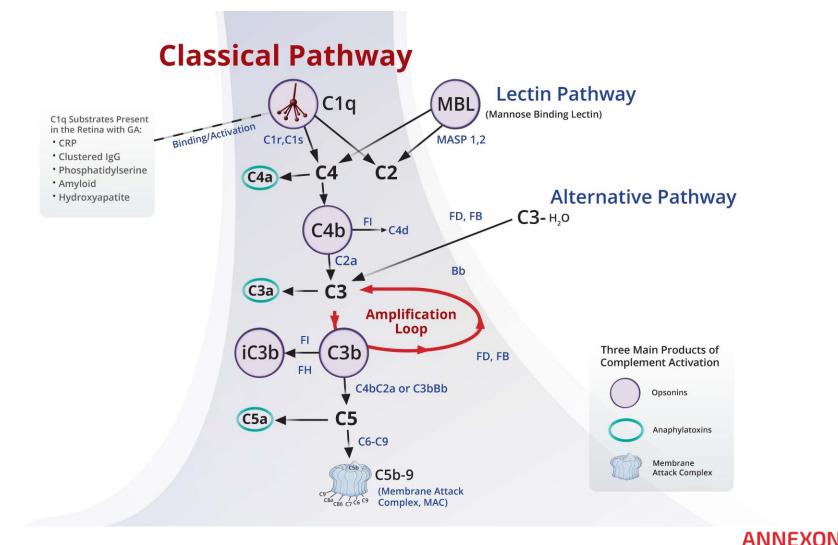
Annexon data on file.

GBS Disability Scale and composite Unified Huntington's Disease Rating Scale are accepted regulatory endpoints.

# Why target C1q in Geographic Atrophy?

- Complement pathway confirmed as a key driver of disease
  - Polymorphisms in 6 different complement genes
  - Clinical trials show inhibition of amplification loop (C3) and MAC (C5) slow progression of disease
- Why and how is complement system activated in geographic atrophy (GA)?
  - In age and disease, C1q tags synapses on photoreceptor cells
  - Drusen and other photoreceptor breakdown products activate C1q
  - C4 (classical pathway upstream of C3) is found at leading edge of GA lesion
  - In animal models, C1q inhibition slows atrophy and preserves function
  - C1q and classical pathway activation is result of substrate-based activation
  - C1q inhibition stops enzymatic cascade and may offer neuroprotection

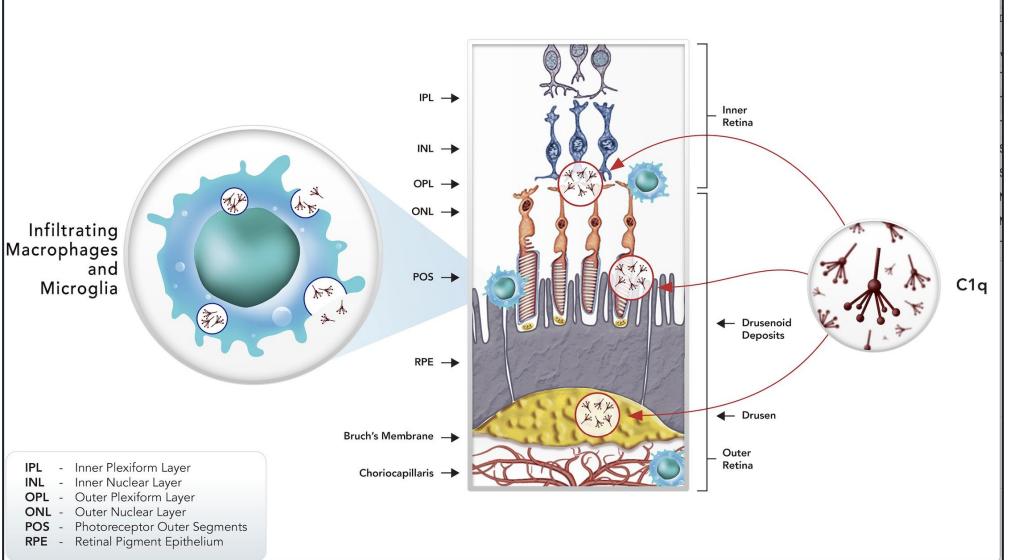
## Why target C1q in GA? Aberrant Substrate-Based Complement Cascade



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Katsche et al. Scientific Reports 2018 Law and Dodds. Protein Science 1997 Chirco and Potemp. Front Immunology 2018

## Why target C1q in GA? C1q Present in All Layers of the Outer Retina

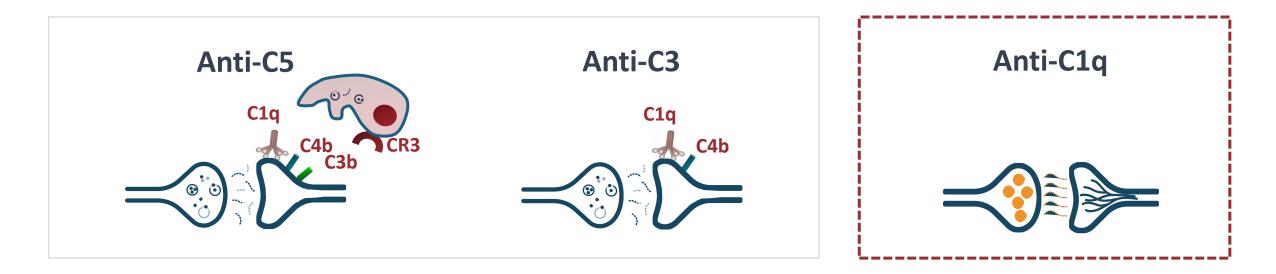


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Fletcher , Ophthalmic Physiologic Optics 2020 Jiao et al, Molecular Neurodegneration 2018 NIPCT: KE: KPIINA III

# Why target C1q in GA? Anti-C1q Differentiated from Other Approaches

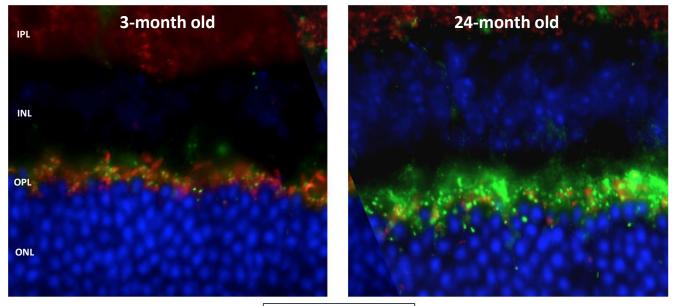
C1q, C4b and C3b are the major opsonins of the classical pathway for macrophage and microglial cell attack



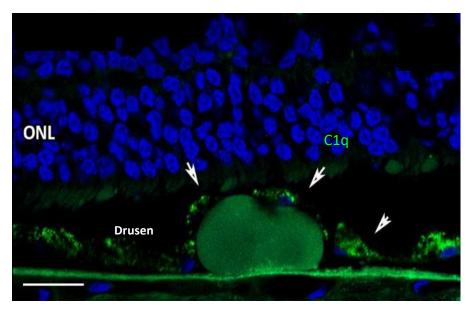
Selective inhibition of classical pathway allows alternative and lectin pathways to continue homeostatic functions

# Why target C1q in GA? C1q Accumulates with Age and in GA

#### C1q accumulation on photoreceptor cell synapses in mouse retina



#### C1q accumulation on drusen in human retina with GA



Human retinal micrograph: Jiao, et al., Mol Neurodegener. 2018 08 20;13(1):45

Data on File, Annexon Biosciences

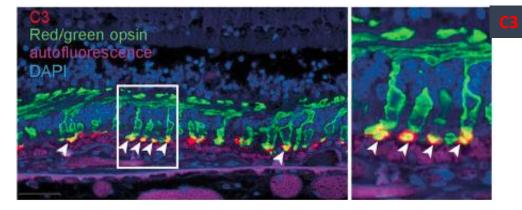
Synapses C1q Nuclei



# C4 Accumulation Support Classical Complement Cascade in GA

- 67% of photoreceptor cells (outer segments) show early stage accumulation of complement C4
- 26% show accumulation of C3 (see white arrows)

GA (86 yr GA patient) – 1.2 mm from lesion edge





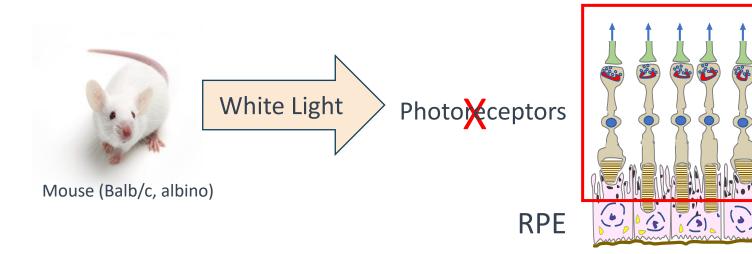
#### C3 and C4 staining on photoreceptor outer segments (POS)

	Mean age (±SD)	Donors	Total eyes	C3+ POS	C4+ POS
AMD	85.9 (±5.1)	13	19	5/19 (26%)	12/18 (67%)
Control	76.4 (±8.4)	9	13	0/11 (0%)	1/13 (8%)



# New Data: Light Damage Model of Photoreceptor Degeneration

- To examine expression and tissue localization of complement proteins in synapses of mice retina exposed to damaging light
- To determine the potential therapeutic benefit of classical complement inhibition in the light damage model of photoreceptor degeneration

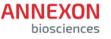


- Overactivation of visual transduction cascade in photoreceptor cells
- Photoreceptor oxidative stress
- Direct photoreceptor death

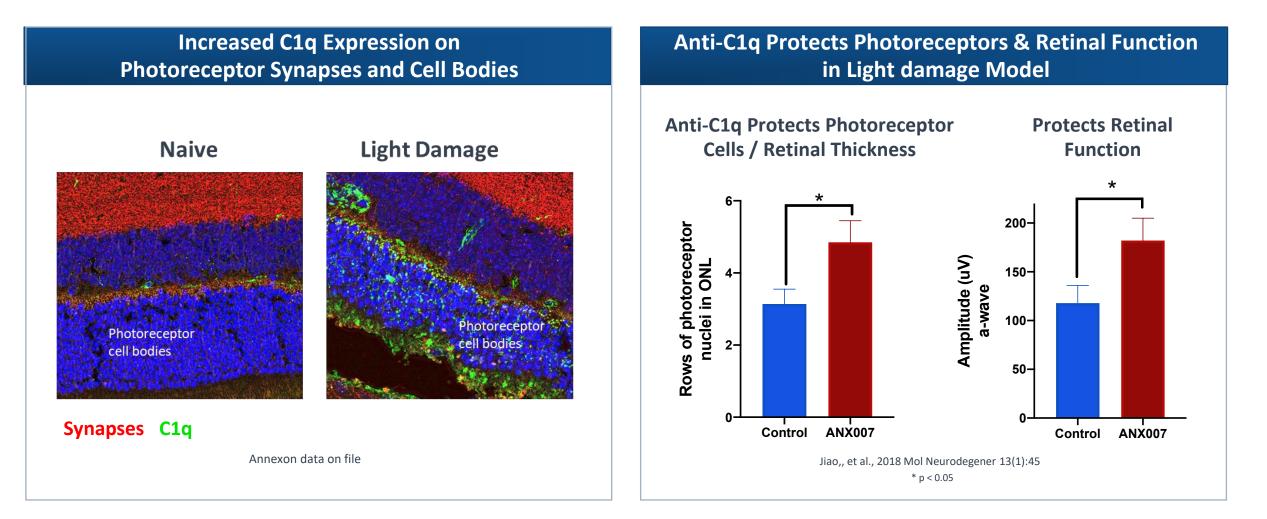


# **Light Damage Model of Photoreceptor Degeneration – Methods**

- Light Damage: Balb/c mice were exposed to white light to cause retinal damage and observed at Day 1, 3 and 7 post light exposure (acute: 25K Lux for 4hs; mild: 5K Lux for 30min)
- **Complement Signature**: Classical complement component levels were measured in retinal lysates by standard sandwich ELISA
- **C1q deposition on synapses and microglia engulfment**: C1q expression in the tissue was assessed by Immunofluorescence (IF) and Confocal Microscopy. Microglia engulfment of synapses was assessed using IMARIS software
- **C1q inhibition**: C1q activity was pharmacologically blocked by intravitreal injection of a C1q inhibitory antibody one day prior light exposure. Tissue was assessed at Day 3 and 5 after treatment



## Blocking C1q Protects Photoreceptors in Light Damage Mouse Model

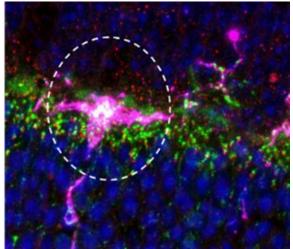




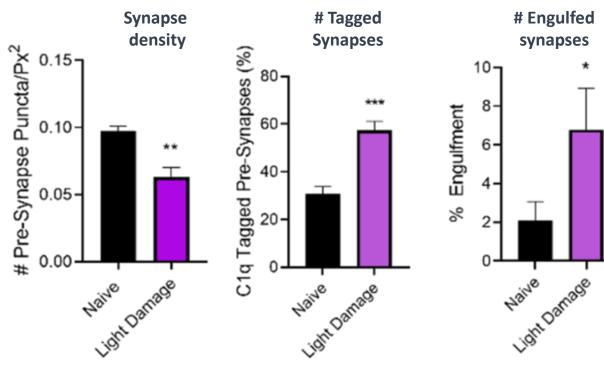
# **Microglial Cell Engulfment of C1q-Tagged Photoreceptor Synapses**

#### **Microglial infiltration of OPL**



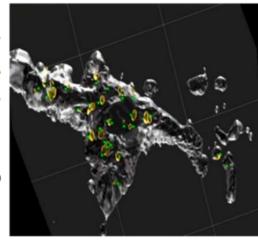


**High resolution 3D surface rendering** 



\* ≤ 0.05; \*\* ≤0.01; \*\*\* ≤0.001

Engulf. C1q-Synapse



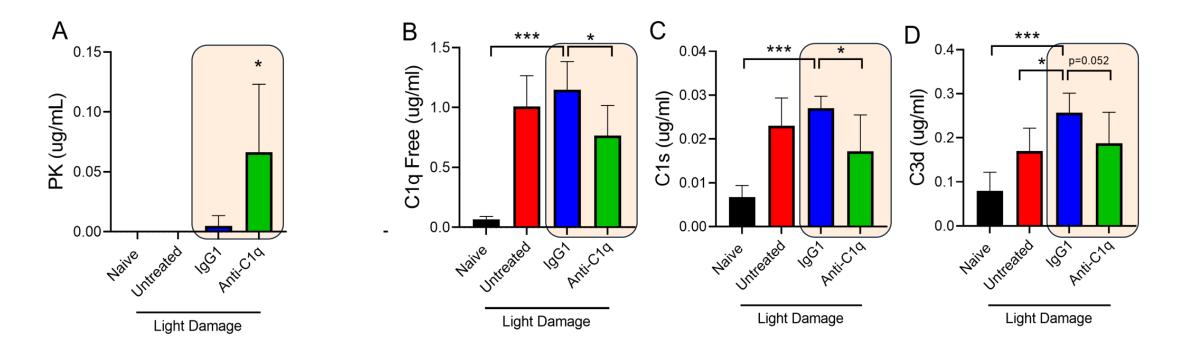
Microglial cell engulfment of C1q tagged synapses in light damaged retina



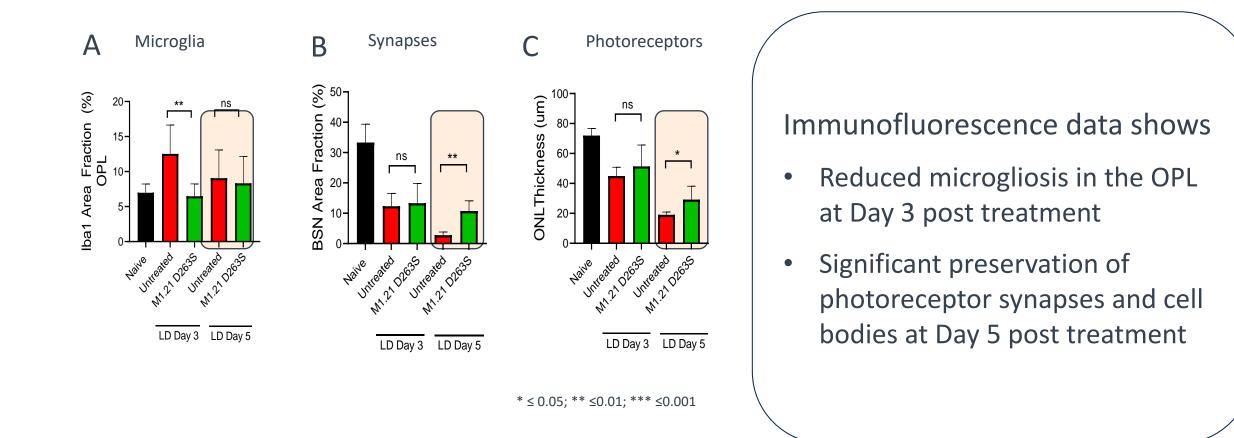
## Intravitreal Administration of Anti-C1q Reduces Retinal Complement Levels in Light Damage Mouse Model

Measurable drug levels in retina lysates

Significant decrease in C1q, C1s and C3d levels upon anti-C1q treatment



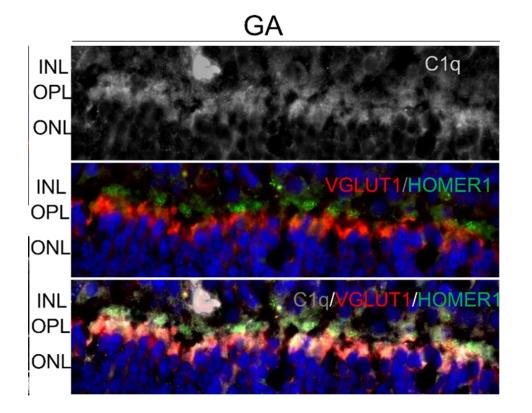
# **Anti-C1q Reduces Neurodegeneration in Light Damage Mouse Model**



Annexon data on file



# C1q Deposition on Photoreceptor Synapses in Human GA Retina



Triple immunolabelling for C1q (grey), presynaptic marker VGLUT1 (red) and postsynaptic marker HOMER1 (green) confirming co-localization of C1q with photoreceptor synapses in human GA donor retina

Retina specimens from GA patients were procured from the San Diego Eye Bank

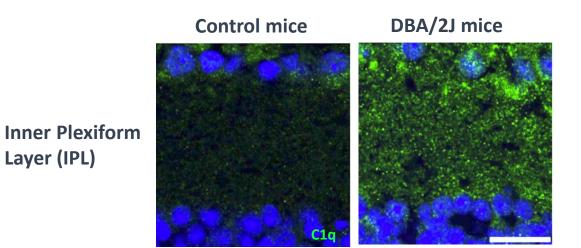


## **Other Evidence of Neuroprotection:** C1q Drives Synapse Loss in Genetic Mouse Model of Glaucoma

#### DBA/2J Mouse model of glaucoma

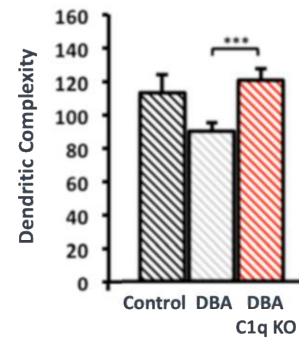
- Spontaneous disease with retinal degeneration and loss of optic nerve
- As with human disease, IOP correlates with progression

#### C1q accumulation on synapses prior to axonal damage or neuronal loss



Stevens and Barres, Cell 2007

#### **Protection of Synapses with C1q Inhibition**



Williams, et al., Molecular Neurodegeneration, 2016



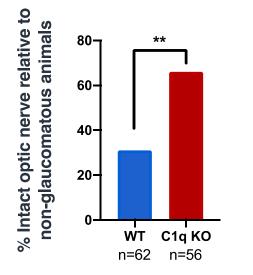
Layer (IPL)

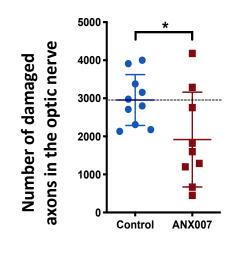
# C1q Inhibition Protects Neurons in Both Chronic and Acute Mouse Models of Glaucoma / C1q Also Present in Human Glaucoma

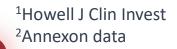
# Protective in both chronic and acute models of glaucoma

C1q KO protected optic nerve integrity at 12 months of age<sup>1</sup>

Anti-C1q protected against acute optic nerve damage<sup>2</sup>





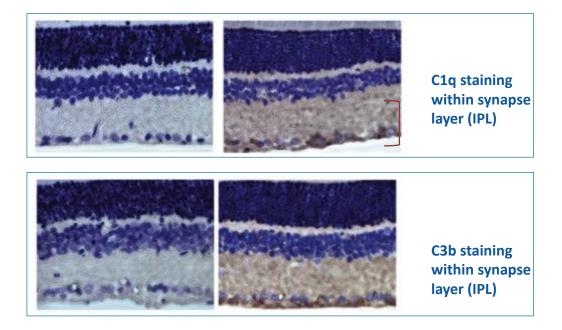




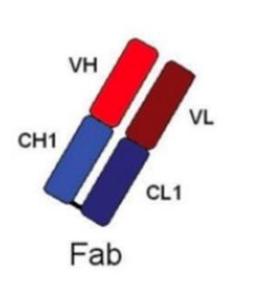
# C1q deposition in 34/34 glaucoma patients

Control

#### Glaucoma



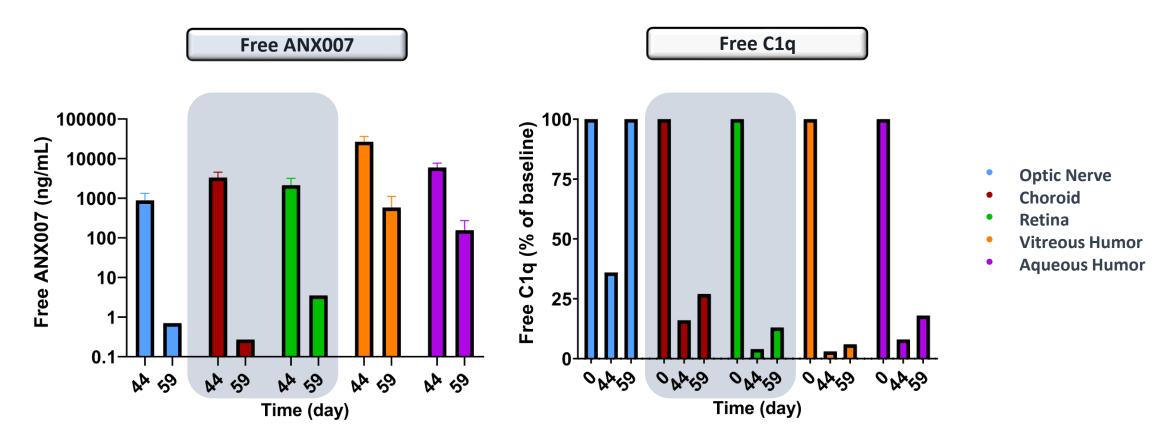
# **ANX007** is Designed to Inhibit C1q



- Recombinant humanized antigen binding fragment (Fab) of a monoclonal antibody
- Composed of one VH and CH1 segment of an IgG1 heavy chain covalently linked to one kappa light chain
- Molecular weight ~48 kDa
- Binds to the complement protein C1q via its antigen binding domain



## **ANX007 Reduces C1q Levels in Retina of Non-Human Primates**

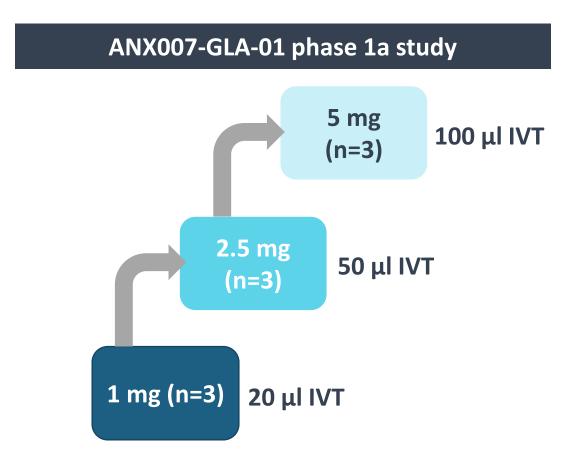


Two doses of 5 mg ANX007 administered IVT 28 days apart in cynomolgus monkeys

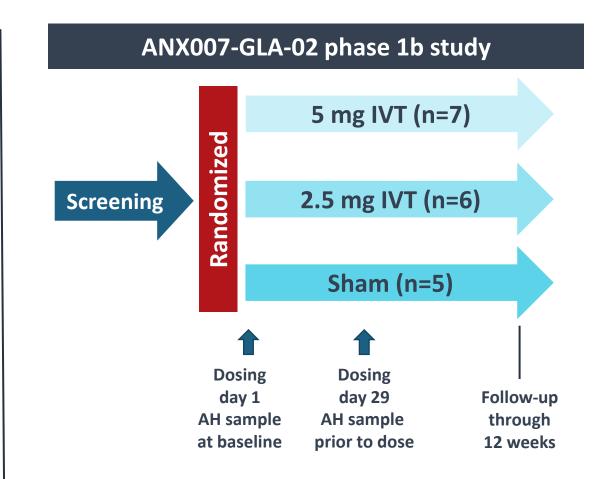
- Day 44 = 15 days post-last dose
- Day 59 = 30 days post-last dose



## Phase 1 Studies Assessing the Safety and Tolerability of ANX007 in Those With Glaucoma



- Single ascending doses in participants with glaucoma
  - Follow-up through 8 weeks



- Two monthly doses in participants with glaucoma
- AH samples were also collected to assess PK/PD ANNEXON biosciences

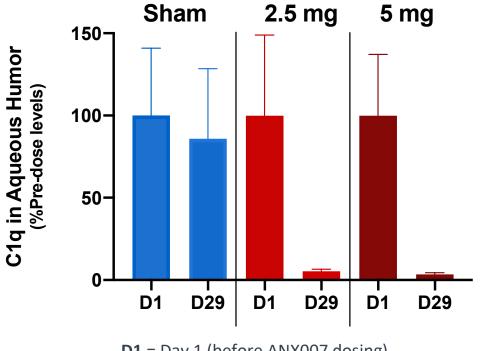
## **ANX007 Effectively Inhibits C1q in Phase 1b Patients**

Full inhibition at low and high doses support monthly or less frequent dosing

#### ANX007 DATA SUMMARY

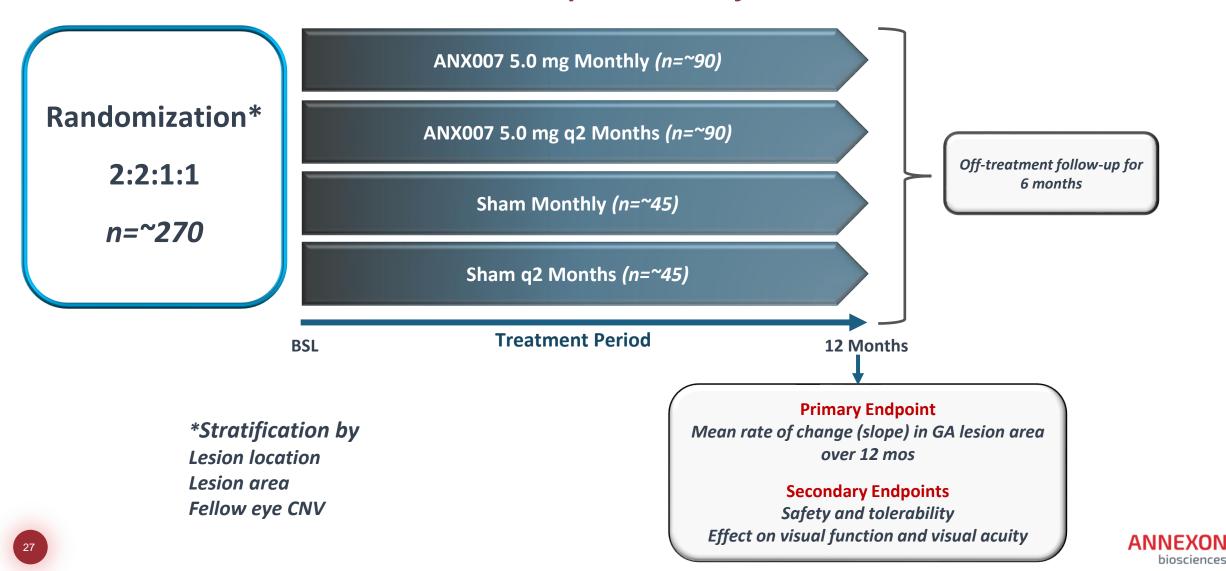
- ANX007 well-tolerated at all dose levels
- Single intravitreal injection inhibited C1q in aqueous humor for at least 29 days at both low and high doses

#### Free C1q Levels in Aqueous Humor



D1 = Day 1 (before ANX007 dosing)
D29 = Day 29 (post-1<sup>st</sup> dose)

## ARCHER Study: Ongoing Phase 2 Study Evaluating Effect of ANX007 in GA Data Anticipated 1<sup>st</sup> Half 2023



# Conclusion

## Scientific Rationale

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## Human Experience

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- Ph 2 data anticipated in 1<sup>st</sup> half 2023