

The road to

Rac**E**ditorial Ltd

...and what I learned along the way

Esther Race: Freelance Medical Writer

The road to **Rac****E**ditorial Ltd

- How I got here
- What I do
- Why I like it (...or...)

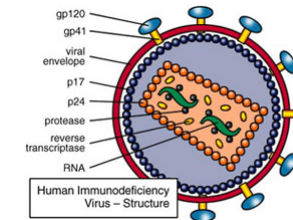
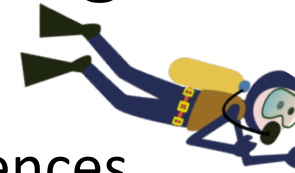
The road to **Rac****E**ditorial Ltd

- How I got here – a bit about me

A twisted road to medical writing...

1984

- Plymouth Poly - BSc (Hons), Biological Sciences
- Various lab technician jobs
- London Hospital Medical College
 - PhD: Development of a whole inactivated HIV vaccine
- Team leader, Roche Products, WGC (3 yrs)
- INSERM U13 (Bichat Hospital), Paris (2 yrs)
- Co-founder, Viralliance, Paris (2 yrs)



2002



7420 • HIV-1 Phenoscript™					
Generic Name	Trade Name	Technical Cut-Off	Clinical Cut-Off	Patient Resistance Index	Estimated Contribution to Response
Nucleoside RT Inhibitors					
Zalcitabine	Retrovir®	3.5	4.5 *	2.0	Likely
3TC Lamivudine	Epivir®	3.0	5.5 *	4.1	Possible
ddI Didanosine	Videx®	2.0	2.5	12.3	Unlikely
d4C Zalcitabine	Hyq®	3.5	3.5 *	4.0	Unlikely
d4T Stavudine	Zerit®	3.0	3.0	> 15.0	Unlikely

A trip through agency life



MediTech Media™

Where/what

- Medical Writer
(Home/London)

Learned/liked/disliked...

- What Med Comms is about
- Adapting to the audience
- Taking the s@*t (red pen and process)



- Chief Medical Writer
(Home/London)

- Extending the message
- The thrills and spills of on site
- Conflict houses and company growing pains



- Untitled
(Oxford)

- The impact of a flat structure
- New therapy areas are not difficult
- What those client services people do



- Scientific Advisor
(Oxford)

- Big office/little office
- Changing landscape of med comms
- A corporate life is not for me



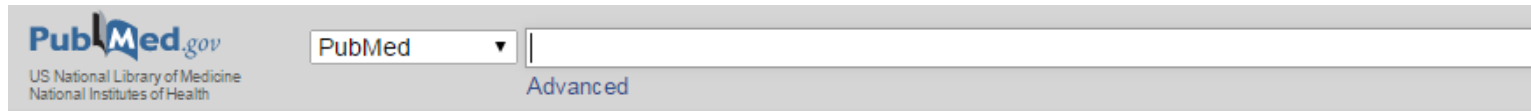
- Company Director
(Home)

- Freelance is much easier than you think
- It's a small world
- When to say no

The road to **Rac****E**ditorial Ltd

- How I got here
- What I do – a case study

What I do: STARTVerso4, from concept to primary publication



Abstract ▾

Send to: ▾

[AIDS](#). 2015 Mar 13;29(5):571-81. doi: 10.1097/QAD.0000000000000579.

Faldaprevir and pegylated interferon α -2a/ribavirin in individuals co-infected with hepatitis C virus genotype-1 and HIV.

[Dieterich D¹](#), [Nelson M](#), [Soriano V](#), [Arastéh K](#), [Guardiola JM](#), [Rockstroh JK](#), [Bhagani S](#), [Laguno M](#), [Tural C](#), [Inqiliz P](#), [Jain MK](#), [Stern JO](#), [Manero M](#), [Vinisko R](#), [Kort J](#); [STARTVerso4 study group](#).

[+ Author information](#)

Abstract

OBJECTIVE: Faldaprevir is a potent, once-daily hepatitis C virus (HCV) NS3/4A protease inhibitor. STARTVerso4 assessed the efficacy and safety of faldaprevir and response-guided pegylated interferon α -2a/ribavirin (PegIFN/RBV) in individuals with HCV/HIV co-infection.

DESIGN: A phase 3 open-label study (NCT01399619).

METHODS: Individuals (N=308) co-infected with HCV genotype 1 (treatment-naïve or prior interferon relapsers) and HIV [96% on antiretroviral therapy (ART)] received faldaprevir 120mg (N=123) or 240mg (N=185) and PegIFN/RBV. Those receiving a protease inhibitor or efavirenz ART were assigned to faldaprevir 120 or 240mg, respectively. Individuals achieving early treatment success (ETS; HCV RNA <25IU/ml at week 4 and undetectable at week 8) were randomized to 24 or 48 weeks of PegIFN/RBV. The primary endpoint was sustained virologic response 12 weeks after treatment (SVR12).

RESULTS: SVR12 was achieved in 221 (72%) individuals, and the rates were comparable across faldaprevir doses. ETS was achieved in 80%, and of these 86% achieved SVR12, with comparable rates with 24 and 48 weeks of PegIFN/RBV (87 and 94%, respectively). In multivariate analysis, age below 40 years, IL28B CC genotype, and baseline HCV RNA below 800000IU/ml were associated with SVR12 (P=0.027, P<0.0001, and P=0.0002, respectively), whereas treatment (ART regimen and faldaprevir dose), liver cirrhosis, and genotype 1 subtype were not. The safety profile was comparable to that of faldaprevir in HCV-monoinfected individuals.

CONCLUSIONS: High SVR12 rates were achieved with faldaprevir and PegIFN/RBV in HIV/HCV co-infected individuals, regardless of faldaprevir dose and background ART, HCV genotype 1 subtype, or cirrhosis status. SVR rates mirrored those obtained with similar regimens in HCV monoinfected individuals.

15 named authors

STARTVerso4

From concept to primary publication

- CSR

3857 pages
(without appendices)

Clinical Trial Report

	Doc. No.: U13-5108-01
BI Trial No.:	1220.19
EudraCT No.:	2010-021734-59
Test Substance:	Faldaprevir, BI 201335
Title:	Safety and Efficacy of 120 mg and 240 mg BI 201335 once daily in combination with pegylated interferon alpha 2a and ribavirin for treatment of chronic Hepatitis C (HCV) genotype 1 infection in HIV/HCV-co-infected patients. A multinational, randomised, parallel group, open-label trial.
Clinical Phase:	III
GCP Compliance:	Yes
Authors:	Montserrat Manero, M.D., Trial Clinical Monitor Prat de la Riba 50 Sant Cugat del Vallés 08174 Barcelona-Spain Richard Vinisko, Trial Statistician Fenglei Huang, Ph.D., Trial Pharmacokineticist Lisa A. Cass, Ph.D., Trial Medical Writer
Coordinating Investigator:	Douglas T. Dieterich, M.D.
Institute/ Department:	Mount Sinai School of Medicine Director of Outpatient Hepatology Division of Liver Diseases
Date of Report:	03 January 2014
Date of Revision:	Not applicable
Dates of Trial:	from 04 October 2011 to Ongoing
Additional Reports:	U13-3430-02 (11 July 2013; revision 16 August 2013)
Page 1 – 3857	
Proprietary confidential information	
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STARTVerso4

From concept to primary publication

- CSR
- Data review meeting
- Abstracts (interim analysis, final analysis, subanalyses..)
 - Kick-off meeting

- Contact report: ¶
- AASLD 2013, STARTVerso 4 Poster kick-off ¶

Meeting details: ¶		14:00–14:30 CEST, 9 th September 2013 ¶
Participants: ¶		Senior authors Company authors Client services Writer
Action ¶ General ¶		Responsibility: ¶
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • → Updated data expected on 16th September. JE to inform about the data update ¶ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ → Existing data to be used in meantime ¶ • → JR on vacation 19th September to 6th October—to be taken into account with development of future drafts ¶ • → JR not attending GASL 2014; JE to discuss presentation options at GASL ¶ 		JE ¶
Poster ¶		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • → Changes and additions to be done following on JR's comments ¶ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ → Patient disposition table (slide 4) to be adapted to a diagram ¶ ○ → Baseline data to be separated into three sections: ¶ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ → Demographic baseline ¶ ▪ → HCV-specific baseline ¶ ▪ → HIV-related baseline ¶ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • → CD4 + nadir to be checked and included in baseline data if possible ¶ • → Details to be added about HIV RNA data (please see additional question in slides/email) ¶ ○ → Baseline data on treatment naive and relapsers to be incorporated ¶ 		ER ¶

STARTVerso4

From concept to primary publication

- CSR
- Data review meeting
- Abstracts (interim analysis, final analysis, subanalyses..)
 - Kick-off meeting
 - Draft, review, submission

Rockstroh et al., STARTVerso4 abstract, AASLD 2013, draft-1.0¶

¶

Abstract for AASLD 2013¶

Proposed abstract category: SO6-HCV Therapy and Trials: New Agents (phase 2-3)¶

Word limits: Title=255 characters (currently 171); Main body=2700 characters, including spaces (currently 2875 [Table counted as 50 characters per row = 300])¶

STARTVerso 4 Phase III trial of faldaprevir plus peg interferon alfa-2a and ribavirin (PR) in patients with HIV and HCV genotype GT1 coinfection: end-of-treatment response¶

Jürgen Kurt Rockstroh¹, Mark Nelson², Vicente Soriano², Keikawus Arastéh⁴, Josep Guardiola², Sanjay Bhagani², Josep Mallolas⁷, Cristina Tural⁸, Massimo Puoti⁹, Patrick Ingiliz¹⁰, Manuel Battegay¹¹, Manita K. Jain¹², Marina Nunez¹³, Kristen Marks¹⁴, Jens Kort¹⁵, Jerry Stern¹⁵, Richard Vinisko¹⁶, Montserrat Manero¹⁶, Douglas Dieterich^{17¶}

¶

¹University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany; ²Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, London, UK; ³Hospital Carlos III, Madrid, Spain; ⁴EPIMED, Vivantes Auguste-Viktoria Hospital, Berlin, Germany; ⁵Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Barcelona, Spain; ⁶Royal Free Hospital, London, UK; ⁷Hospital Clínic, Barcelona, Spain; ⁸Hospital Universitari Germans Trias i Pujol, Barcelona, Spain; ⁹AO Ospedale Niguarda Cà Granda, Milan, Italy; ¹⁰Medizinisches Infektologiezentrum, Berlin (MIB), Berlin, Germany; ¹¹Division of Infectious Diseases and Hospital Epidemiology, Basel, Switzerland; ¹²UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX, USA; ¹³Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC, USA; ¹⁴Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, NY, USA; ¹⁵Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc., Ridgefield, CT, USA; ¹⁶Boehringer Ingelheim España S.A., Barcelona, Spain; ¹⁷Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY, USA¶

¶

Background¶

Faldaprevir (FDV) is a potent, once-daily HCV NS3/4A protease inhibitor. The objective of the STARTVerso4 (SV4) study is to assess efficacy and safety of FDV plus PR, and evaluate a 24-week (W), shortened treatment duration in HIV patients coinfecting with chronic HCV genotype (GT) 1.¶

Methods¶

SV4 is an open-label, sponsor-blinded study in HCV/HIV coinfecting patients who were HCV-treatment-naïve (TN) or relapsed after previous HCV therapy. Arm A: patients received FDV 120 mg QD and PR for 24W; Arm B: patients received FDV 240 mg QD plus PR for 12W and

STARTVerso4

From concept to primary publication

- CSR
- Data review meeting
- Abstracts (interim analysis, final analysis, subanalyses..)
 - Kick-off meeting
 - Draft, review, submission
- Slides and posters
 - Kick-off meeting
 - Drafts, review, submission/presentation

STARTVerso4

From concept to primary publication

- CSR
- Data review meeting
- Abstracts (interim analysis, final analysis, subanalyses..)
 - Kick-off meeting
 - Draft, review, submission
- Slides and posters
 - Kick-off meeting
 - Drafts, review, submission/presentation
- Manuscript
 - Outline
 - First draft
 - Second draft.....xth draft.....copy edit, data check....

STARTVerso4

From concept to primary publication

- CSR
- Data review meeting
- Abstracts (interim analysis, final analysis, subanalyses..)
 - Kick-off meeting
 - Draft, review, submission
- Slides and posters
 - Kick-off meeting
 - Drafts, review, submission/presentation
- **Manuscript**
 - Outline
 - First draft
 - Second draft.....xth draft.....copy edit, data check....
 - **Submission draft (formatting, figures, reference updates)**

STARTVerso4: CSR to publication

Name

Date modified

- STARTVerso4_Response to Reviewers_v7.2ER
- STARTVerso4_Manuscript_AIDS_v7.2ER
- STARTVerso4_Supplemental Digital Content_AIDS_v7.0
- STARTVerso4_Response to Reviewers_v7.1
- STARTVerso4_Manuscript_AIDS_v7.1

Manuscript amends

Manuscript reference number: AIDS-D-14-00982

Title: STARTVerso4: faldaprevir and pegylated interferon α -2a/ribavirin in individuals co-infected with hepatitis C virus genotype-1 and HIV

Reviewers' comments:

You should include a covering note as part of your submission stating clearly how the text has been changed or your reasons for rebuttal of suggestions.

Please ensure that limits to length of structured abstracts (250 words) and titles (220 characters) are not exceeded, and that authorship is limited to those who have made a substantial contribution to the paper. Justification of more than 20 names should be submitted to the Editors. More than 22 authors is not acceptable.

Please update the information as necessary and do the following:

1. Please provide a point-by-point list of the changes which have been made, referring to page, table and figure numbers as appropriate in a covering note. Please include this as part of your submission, attaching it as a 'supporting document'.
2. In this document state how you have responded to the referee(s) comments.
3. If you do not accept a comment from the referee(s) please explain your reasons for your rebuttal.
4. The title must be no longer than 220 characters with a running head of no more than 40 characters. Title is 220 characters.
5. The abstract must be a maximum of 250 words. Abstract is 250 words.
6. At the end of the manuscript, provide a description of the role of each of the authors in the study reported. This form is available on the AIDS Editorial Manager home page and the instructions for Authors page.
7. Please note that the inclusion of a signed copyright transfer form will be required for resubmission. This form is available on the AIDS Editorial Manager home page.

Item	Reviewer	Comment	Suggested Response and Action
1*	Reviewer #2*	Reviewer 2: This is an important study which assessed the efficacy and safety of treating HCV/HIV co-infected patients with a HCV protease inhibitor, in patients on 'standard' HIV treatment regimens, including HIV PIs. This study clearly shows that such a combination of is possible despite concerns of drug-drug interactions. EFV seems to decrease the response rate, but the authors state this is not statistically significant. It is unclear to me however which groups were compared. If faldaprevir levels in the 240-mg.	The statement in the discussion regarding lack of statistical significance, was based on the lack of significant association between background HAART and SVR24; the multivariate analysis. We agree that this statement may be open to
2*	Reviewer #2*	group were the same as in the 240-mg group in patients not on EFV, this actually suggests that the 240-mg regimen results in lower SVR rates. Is the difference 54/82 (65.9%) vs 63/103 not statistically significant? (table 3)	misinterpretation. In fact, the study was not designed or powered to allow for any formal conclusions to be made regarding treatment effects within subgroups. We have therefore removed the first part of this sentence.
		Table 3 is somehow confusing. Why not present a univariate and multivariate logistic regression analysis with SVR24 as outcome? For some parameters confidence intervals of the difference were determined, for other parameters not (ND). Why is that? Also, not all parameters were multivariate corrected in the same manner.	Need input from Biostat team. We could replace table 2 (subgroup analysis) with table 5 (univariate and multivariate logistic regression analysis).

Dear Author,

During the preparation of your manuscript for typesetting, some queries have arisen. These are listed below. Please check your typeset proof carefully and mark any corrections in the margin as neatly as possible or compile them as a separate list. This form should then be returned with your marked proof/list of corrections to the Production Editor.

QUERIES: to be answered by AUTHOR/EDITOR

QUERY NO.	QUERY DETAILS	RESPONSE
<AQ1>	As per style, the short title/running head can have a maximum of 65 characters including spaces and author names, and abbreviations/acronyms only as exceptions. Please check the suggested running head as abbreviations are appearing and on expansion it is exceeding the permissible character limit.	
<AQ2>	As per style, study names should not appear in article titles. Please provide an alternative title without the study name.	
<AQ3>	Please provide the full forms of the following acronyms: P-gp, SPF, EASL, and ULN.	
<AQ4>	Please provide complete bibliographic details such as volume, year of publication, and page range for Refs. 8 and 45.	
<AQ5>	Please update Ref. 28, if possible, by providing complete publication details such as volume, year of publication, and page range.	

AQ2 **STARTVerso4: faldaprevir and pegylated interferon α -2a/ribavirin in individuals co-infected with hepatitis C virus genotype-1 and HIV**

Douglas Dieterich^a, Mark Nelson^b, Vicente Soriano^c,
 Keikawus Arastéh^d, Josep M. Guardiola^e, Jürgen K. Rockstroh^f,
 Sanjay Bhagani^g, Montserrat Laguno^h, Cristina Turalⁱ,
 Patrick Ingiliz^j, Mamta K. Jain^k, Jerry O. Stern^l,
 Montserrat Manero^m, Richard Vinisko^l, Jens Kort^l,
 on behalf of the STARTVerso4 study group

Objective: Faldaprevir is a potent, once-daily hepatitis C virus (HCV) NS3/4A protease inhibitor. STARTVerso4 assessed the efficacy and safety of faldaprevir and response-guided pegylated interferon α -2a/ribavirin (PegIFN/RBV) in individuals with HCV/HIV co-infection.

Design: A phase 3 open-label study (NCT01399619).

Methods: Individuals ($N=308$) co-infected with HCV genotype 1 (treatment-naïve or prior interferon relapsers) and HIV (96% on antiretroviral therapy (ART)) received faldaprevir 120 mg ($N=123$) or 240 mg ($N=185$) and PegIFN/RBV. Those receiving a protease inhibitor or efavirenz ART were assigned to faldaprevir 120 or 240 mg, respectively. Individuals achieving early treatment success (ETS; HCV RNA <25 IU/ml at week 4 and undetectable at week 8) were randomized to 24 or 48 weeks of PegIFN/RBV. The primary endpoint was sustained virologic response 12 weeks after treatment (SVR12).

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Conclusions: High SVR12 rates were achieved with faldaprevir and PegIFN/RBV in HIV/HCV co-infected individuals, regardless of faldaprevir dose and background ART, HCV genotype 1 subtype, or cirrhosis status. SVR rates mirrored those obtained with similar regimens in HCV monoinfected individuals.

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 AIDS 2015, 29:000-000

thank Anne-Marie Quinson for data interpretation and development and critical review of the manuscript. Medical writing assistance, supported financially by Boehringer Ingelheim, was provided by Esther Race of Choice Healthcare Solutions during the preparation of this manuscript. This trial is registered with ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT01343888).

Clinical study publications: more than just a manuscript

Clinical Study Protocol

- Advisory boards
- Clinical study kit
- Investigator meetings
- Investigator updates

Results

- Internal data review
- Abstract
- Poster/oral
- Manuscript

Internal communications

- Internal news letters
- Internal Q & A
- Objection handler
- Training slides
- e-learning

Wider external communications

- Press release
- Conference materials/symposia
- Review papers
- Slide kits/meeting in a box
- Patient education

The road to **Rac****E**ditorial Ltd

- How I got here
- What I do
- Why I like it (...or...) – variety

Medical writers: more than just writers

Pick up an urgent project from another writer to meet a deadline

Work with studio on the story board for a new moa animation

Review, mentor, line manage

Research and write scientifically accurate copy (Mostly Word and Powerpoint)

Attend a 4 day conference, produce overnight reports and present at daily debriefs

Attend a meeting to come up with ideas for a satellite symposium agenda

Travel to an advisory board, take notes and produce a report

Provide scientific advice to the team pitching for new business and attend the pitch

Two sides to every story

Rewards

- Used my science
- Pleasure of writing
- Variety
 - Field, project, client
- Successfully completed projects
- Interesting people
- (Travel)
- Freelance option - flexibility

Challenges

- Keeping up to date
- Writers block
- Variety
 - Speed learning
- Endless projects
- Difficult people
- (Travel)
- Freelance option - flexibility

The road to **Rac****E**ditorial Ltd

- How I got here
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QUESTIONS?