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# Developing Novel Treatments for Fibrotic Diseases

Corporate Presentation

JANUARY 2022

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# Pliant – Company Highlights

## Industry-Leading Fibrosis Platform



- Built on integrin-mediated inhibition of TGF- $\beta$  pathway resulting in antifibrotic effect and shown to be safe
- Proprietary drug discovery platform based on novel in-house compound library of integrin binders
- Lead molecule PLN-74809 is highly antifibrotic in lung and liver while well tolerated at highest doses tested

## Programs Targeting High Unmet Medical Need with High-Impact, Near-Term Catalysts



- PLN-74809 in Phase 2a development in IPF and PSC
  - Phase 2a topline data in IPF expected mid-2022
  - Significant clinical derisking: target engagement (PET) and TGF- $\beta$  pathway inhibition (pSmad)
- IND submissions in oncology and muscular dystrophies expected by YE 2022

## Strategic Partnership with Novartis Validates Platform



- Largest (\$80M) upfront for a preclinical NASH program
- Significant expense offset to pipeline programs
- Broad multi-target research collaboration
  - Next generation anti-fibrotic molecules targeting novel integrins

## Strong Financial Position



- Over \$385 million raised to date in four financing rounds including June 2020 IPO (Nasdaq: PLRX)
- \$221 million cash<sup>1</sup> balance as of September 30, 2021
- Company funded into 2H 2023

# Recent Company Highlights

- **PLN-74809 Phase 2a INTEGRIS-IPF trial enrollment complete**
  - PLN-74809 has been administered to over 450 subjects to date and shown to be well tolerated
  - INTEGRIS-IPF topline data expected mid-2022
- **Positive interim data from PLN-74809 PET imaging target engagement study**
  - PLN-74809 showed target engagement up to 98% in lungs of IPF patients
  - All doses tested achieved target engagement above threshold for predicted antifibrotic activity
- **FDA authorized evaluation of long-term treatment with PLN-74809 at doses up to 320 mg in IPF**
  - No safety concerns identified to date at doses up to 640 mg single dose and 320 mg multiple dose
  - No treatment-related effects in chronic GLP tox, NOAEL set at the highest dose tested
  - Expected 1H 2022 initiation of 6-month Phase 2a trial of PLN-74809 at 320 mg in IPF patients
- **PLN-74809 Phase 2a INTEGRIS-PSC trial on track for full enrollment by mid-2022**
  - INTEGRIS-PSC topline data expected late 2022 / early 2023
- **Early-stage programs in Oncology and DMD advancing toward IND**
  - INDs expected in both indications by YE 2022

# Pliant's Integrin Focused Library

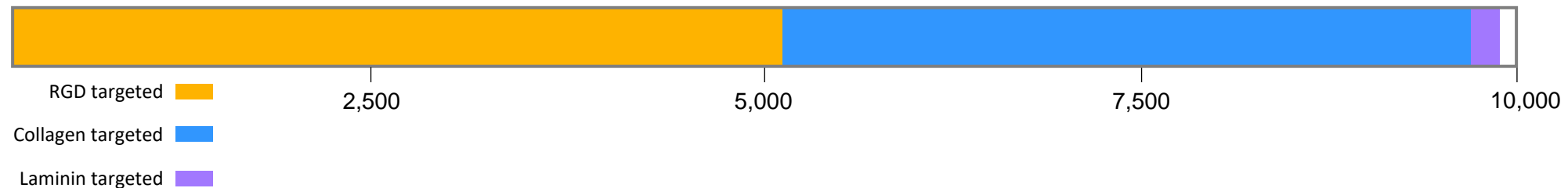
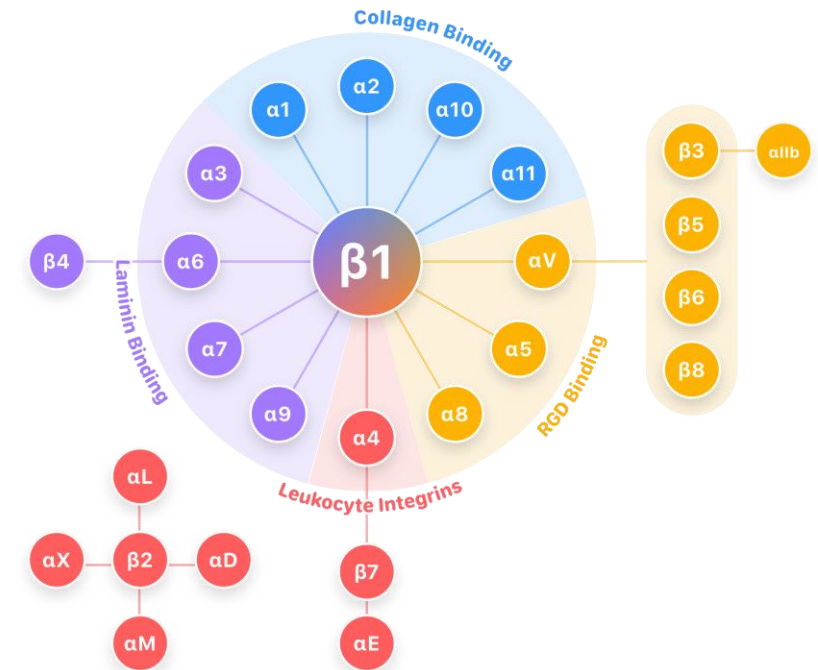
## Core Platform for Novel Pipeline and Partner Programs

### Integrins

- Cell surface receptors that facilitate cell-cell and cell-extracellular matrix adhesion and interaction
- A major path of communication between the extracellular matrix, inflammatory cells, fibroblasts
- Closely involved in signaling processes governing tissue fibrosis

### Pliant's proprietary library of integrin binding compounds

- Emphasis on structural diversity
- Broad spectrum of receptor subfamilies including  $\alpha_v$  integrins, collagen and laminin binders



# Pliant Development Pipeline

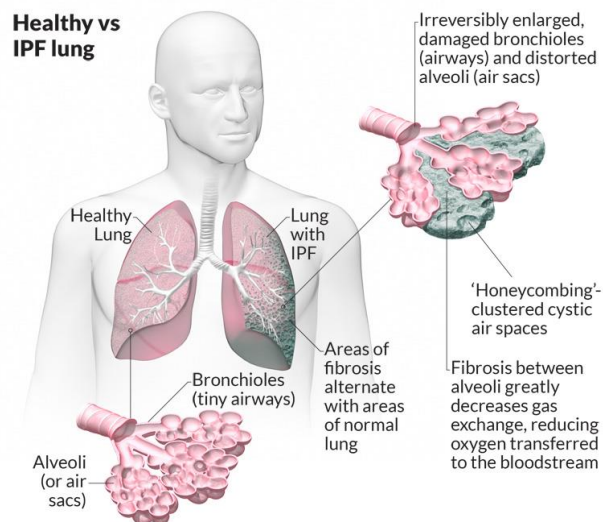
	Program	Indication	Preclinical	Clinical			Anticipated Milestone	Global Rights
				Phase I	Phase II	Phase III		
WHOLLY OWNED	<b>PLN-74809</b> Dual selective inhibitor of $\alpha_v\beta_8/\alpha_v\beta_1$	Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis	INTEGRIS-IPF Enrollment Complete				Phase 2a Topline Data Expected Mid-2022	PLIANT
		Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis					Phase 2a Enrollment Complete Expected Mid-2022	PLIANT
	<b>Oncology</b> Inhibitor of $\alpha_v\beta_8$	Solid Tumors					IND Filing Expected YE 2022	PLIANT
	<b>Muscular Dystrophies</b> Anti-integrin mAb	DMD Other Muscular Dystrophies					IND Filing Expected YE 2022	PLIANT
PARTNERED	<b>PLN-1474</b> Selective inhibitor of $\alpha_v\beta_1$	NASH-Associated Liver Fibrosis					Phase 2 Initiation	NOVARTIS



# Fibrosis: The Silent Killer

**Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF)** is a lethal pathological process with limited therapeutic options

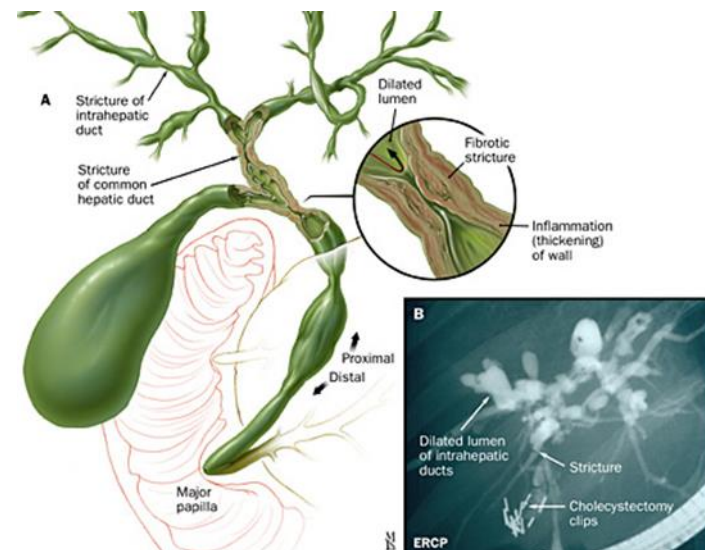
- 140k patients in the U.S.; 30k-40k new cases/year; 40k deaths/year
- **Median survival: 3–5 years** - Worse than some common cancers
- 2 FDA approved therapeutics generate **annual revenues >\$3.6 billion** despite significant remaining unmet medical need



<https://www.lungsandyou.com/ipf>

**Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis (PSC)** is a progressive inflammatory liver disease resulting in scarring of bile ducts, and cirrhosis

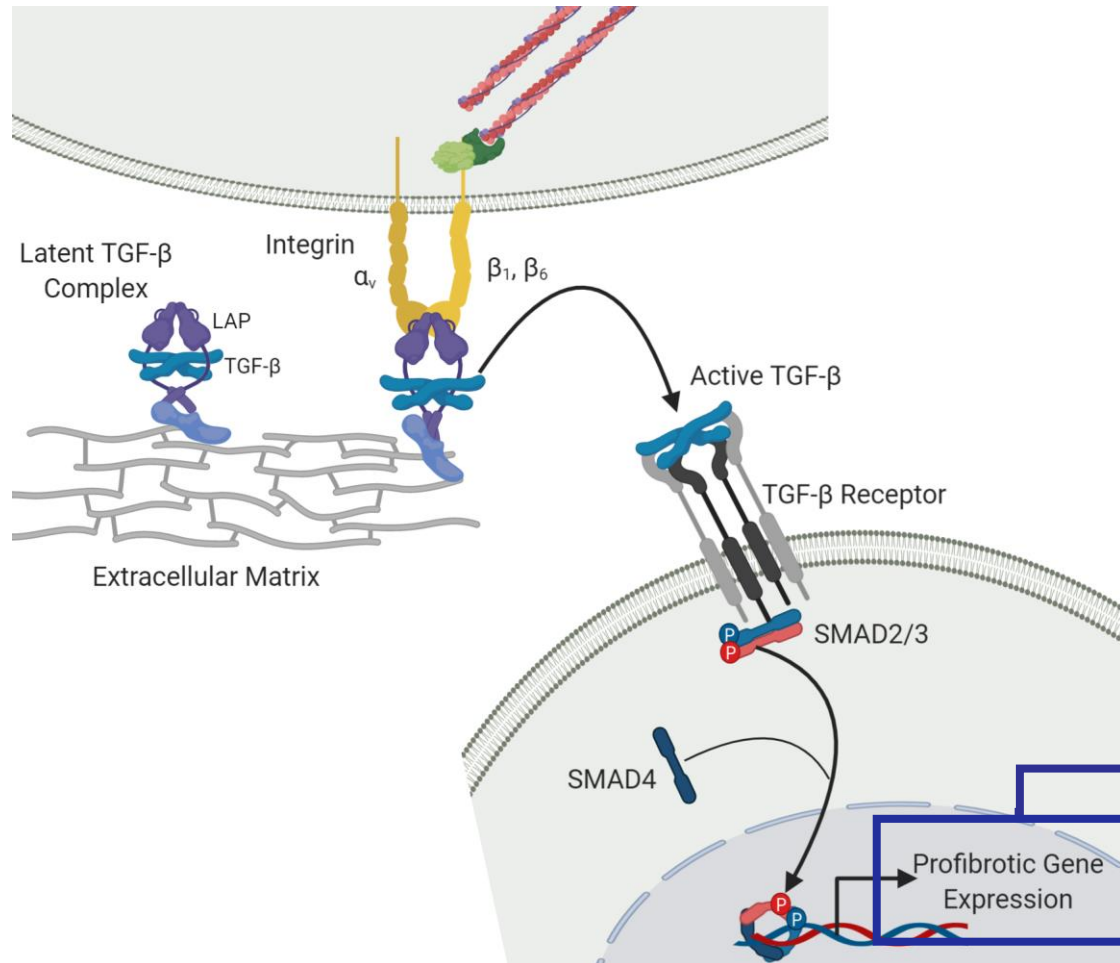
- Currently **no FDA approved therapeutics**
- 30k-45k patients in the U.S.
- **Median survival: 10-12 years** without intervention



[www.jhmicall.org](http://www.jhmicall.org)

# $\alpha_v\beta_6$ / $\alpha_v\beta_1$ Integrins Drive Cell-Matrix Interactions in Fibrosis

$\alpha_v\beta_6$  /  $\alpha_v\beta_1$  Integrins promote fibrosis by TGF- $\beta$  activation

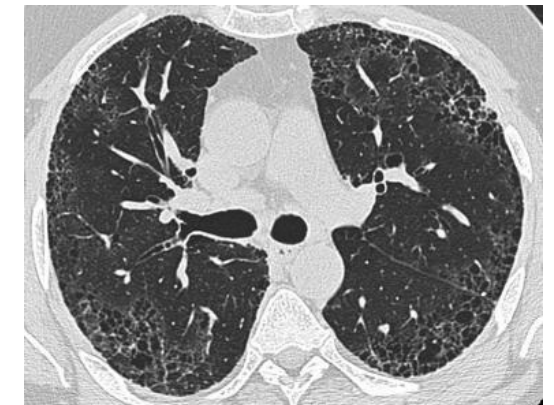


- TGF- $\beta$  is central mediator of fibrosis
- $\alpha_v\beta_6$ / $\alpha_v\beta_1$  Integrins activate latent TGF- $\beta$  only in fibrotic tissue
- Systemic TGF- $\beta$  blockade carries toxicity risks

Selectively blocking TGF- $\beta$  in fibrotic tissues may provide a low risk, effective antifibrotic approach

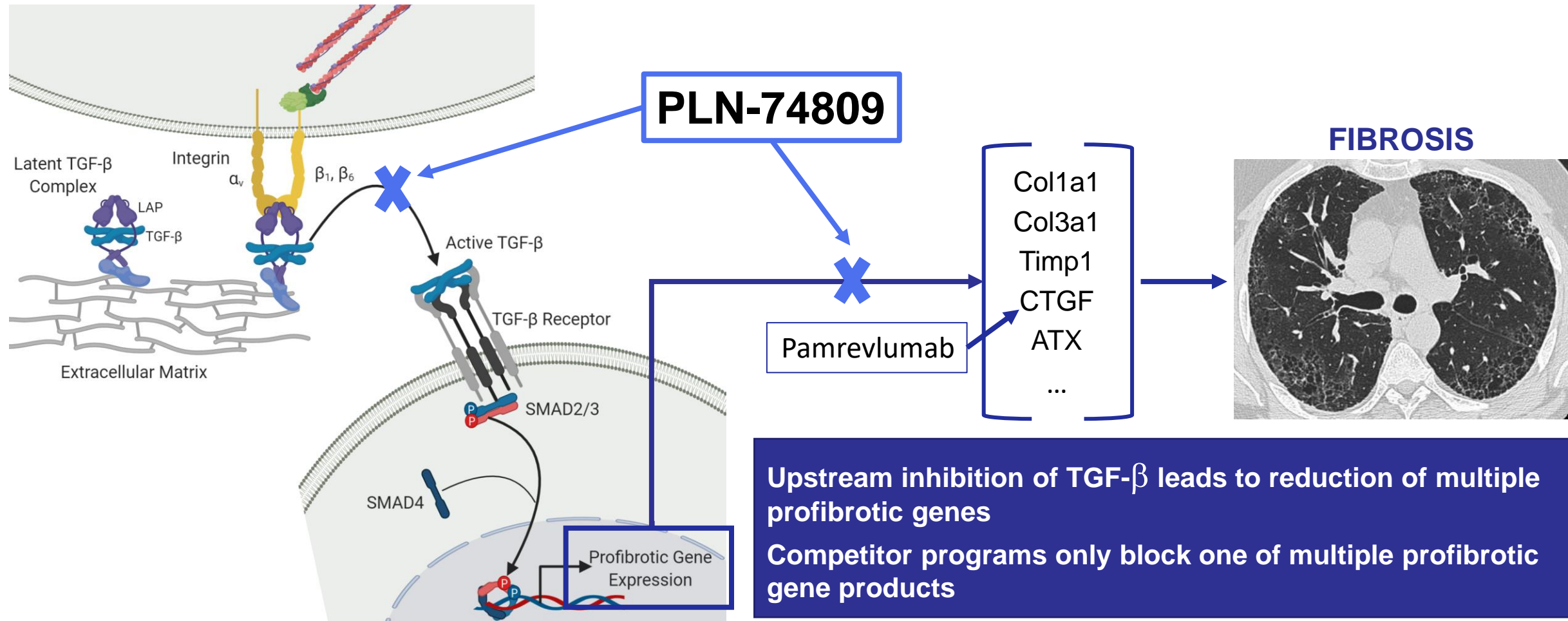
Col1a1  
Col3a1  
Timp1  
CTGF  
ATX  
...

## FIBROSIS





# PLN-74809 Provides Profound Antifibrotic Activity through Upstream Inhibition of TGF- $\beta$ Activation



Upstream inhibition of TGF- $\beta$  leads to reduction of multiple profibrotic genes  
Competitor programs only block one of multiple profibrotic gene products

# Pliant Compounds Have Not Shown Adverse Effects of Systemic Inhibition of TGF- $\beta$ Pathways<sup>1</sup>

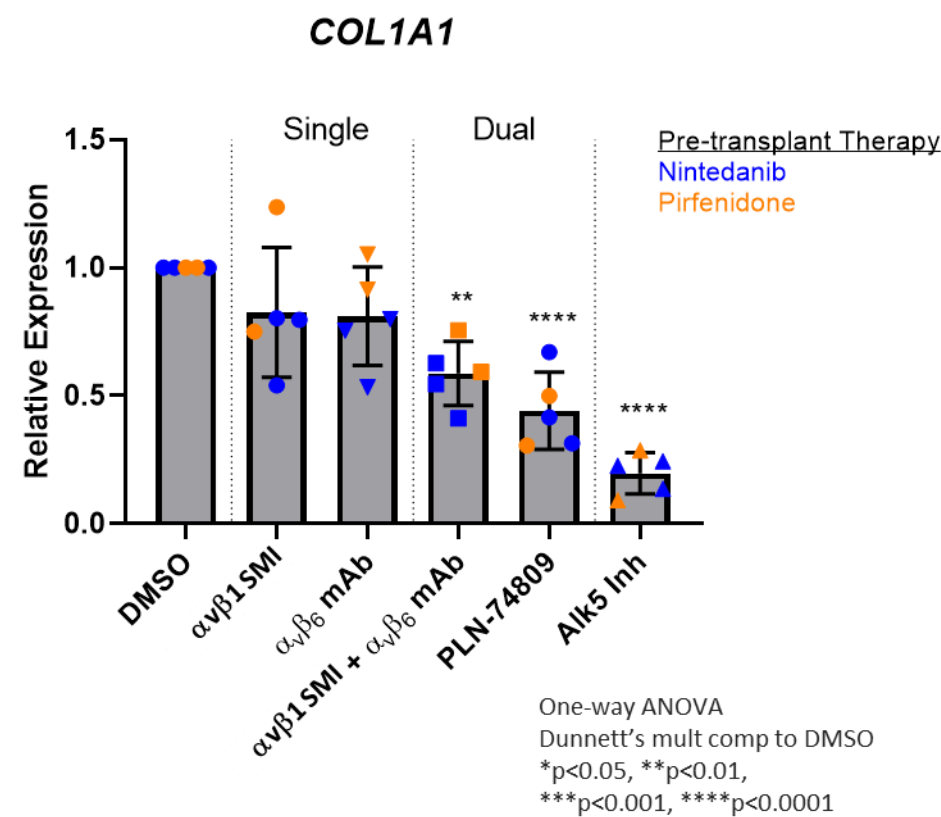
By targeting integrins that are upregulated specifically in fibrotic tissues, Pliant's small molecule compounds may **avoid toxicities associated with systemic TGF- $\beta$  blockade<sup>1</sup>**

Affected Organ System	Systemic TGF- $\beta$ Blockade	Observed with Pliant Compounds? <sup>1</sup>
Cardiovascular System	Cardiotoxicity	No
Immune System	Autoimmunity/Inflammation	No
GI System	Autoimmunity/Inflammation	No
Skin	Keratoacanthomas/SCC	No
Hematology	Thrombocytopenia/Anemia	No

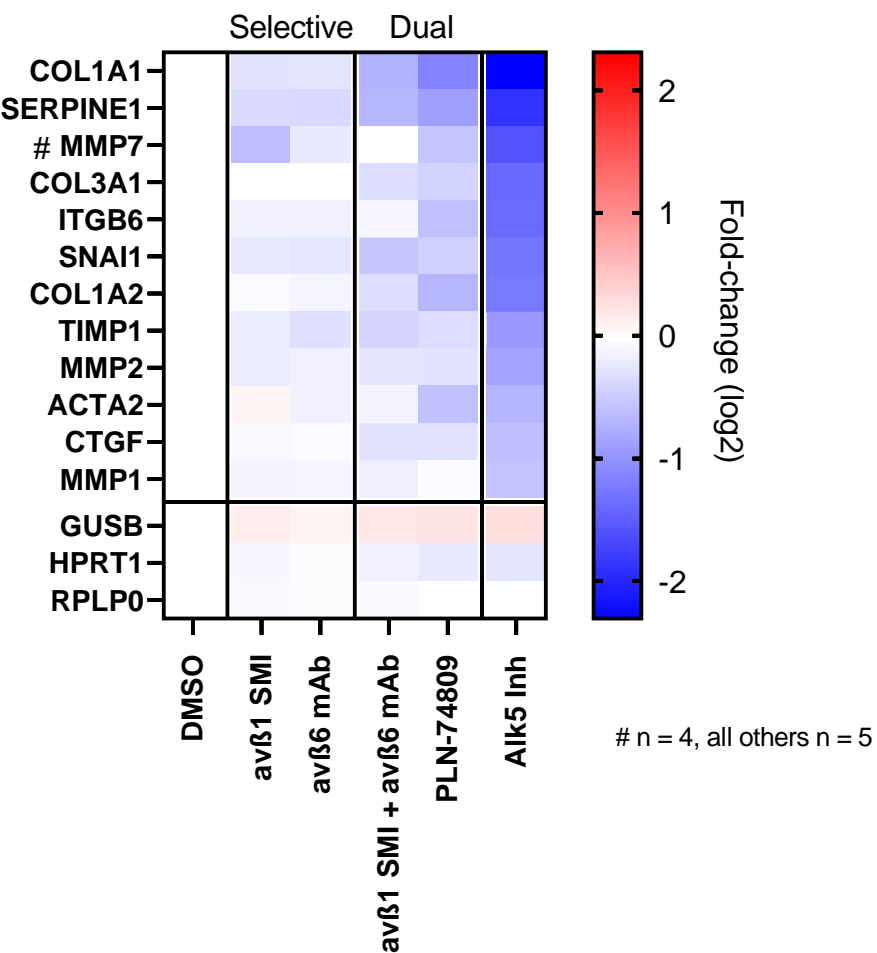
<sup>1</sup> - Based on preclinical GLP tox studies as well as clinical trials to date.

# Dual $\alpha_v\beta_6/\alpha_v\beta_1$ Inhibition Blocks COL1A1 Gene Expression More than Single Inhibition in Human IPF Tissue

- Ex-planted lungs from 5 IPF patients
- Sliced and cultured for 7 days



## Profibrotic Gene Expression Panel

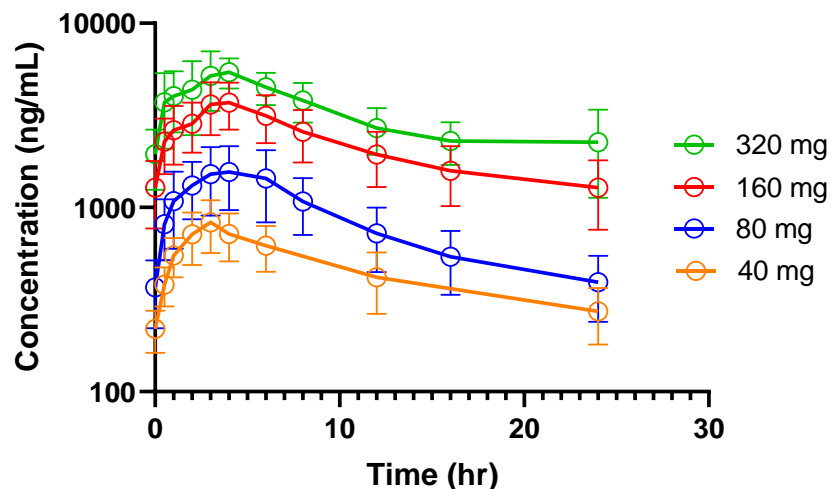


# PLN-74809 – Extended Phase 1a Data Summary

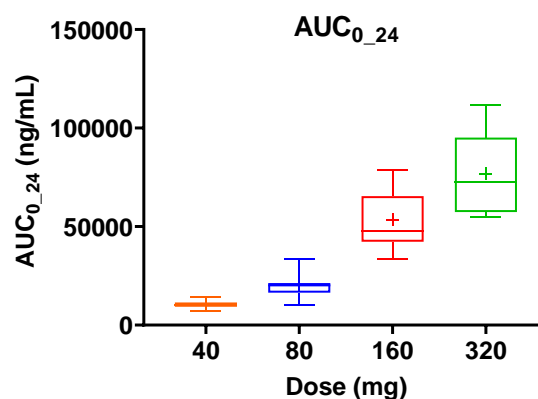
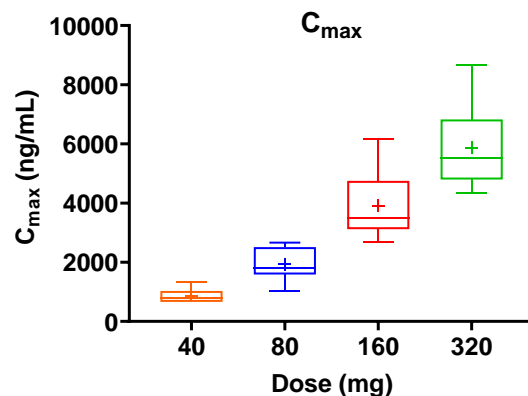
## Pharmacokinetics

- Well absorbed, orally bio-available
- Long  $T_{1/2}$ : ~50 hrs – QD dosing

### Summary PK Curves by Cohort at Steady State



PK sampling up to 144h; only 0-24hr plotted.  
Doses 10mg to 40mg from Study PLN-74809-P1-01, Day 14.  
Doses 80mg, 160mg and 320mg from Study PLN-74809-104, Day 7.



Data presented as box plots (max to min)  
with line at median and + at mean.

## Safety

- Administered to over 450 subjects to date including healthy volunteers and patients
- Generally well tolerated
- Most frequently reported AE in healthy volunteers was headache with no drug-related severe AEs reported

### Safety Summary (Participants with drug-related TEAEs)

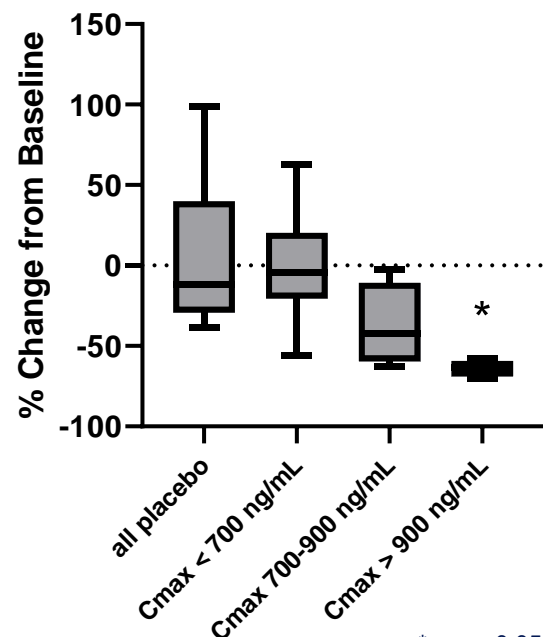
Multiple Ascending QD Doses						
	10 mg (N=9)	20 mg (N=9)	40 mg (N=9)	80 mg (N=8)	160 mg (N=16)	320 mg (N=8)
AE SEVERITY						
Mild	--	11%	--	13%	19%	25%
Moderate	--	--	--	25%	6%	--
Severe	--	--	--	--	--	--

# PLN-74809 – Phase 1b Proof of Biological Mechanism

## Strong PK/PD Relationship – $C_{\max}$ above $IC_{50}$ Results in Predicted Biological Effect

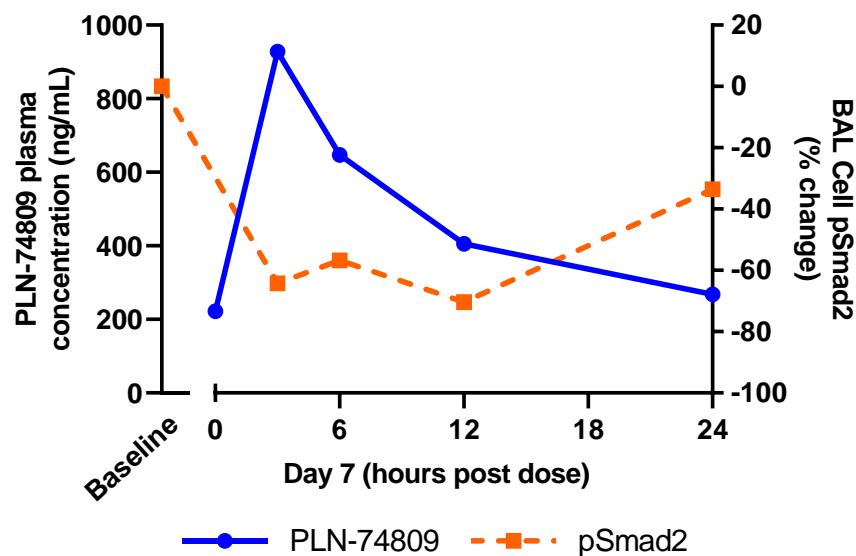
Data Presented June 2019

Alveolar pSMAD2/SMAD2  
(all time points)



\* =  $p < 0.05$  vs placebo  
and  $C_{\max} < 700$  ng/mL group

Mean PK/PD Response in Subjects with  
 $C_{\max} > 700$  ng/mL



## Phase 1b Study Investigating Higher Doses – Data Expected in 1Q2022

Data from this study and the PET target engagement trial evaluate 80, 160 or 320 mg to demonstrate the relationship between:

PLN-74809 plasma exposure

PLN-74809 target engagement

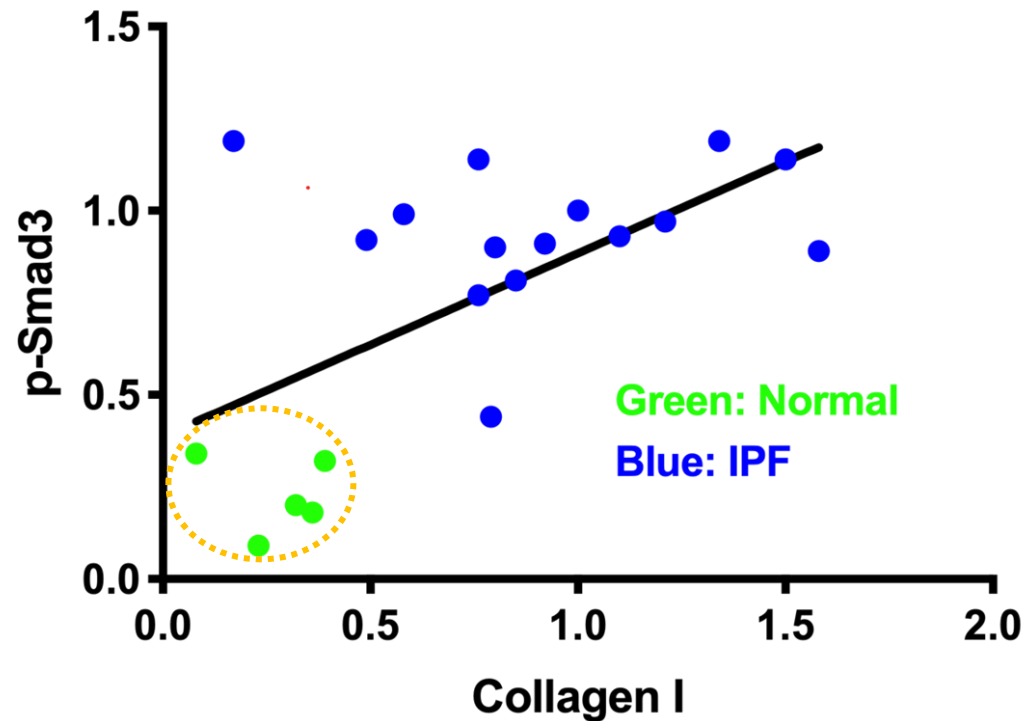
TGF- $\beta$  signaling inhibition

Antifibrotic activity



# Tissue pSMAD Levels Are Highly Significantly Correlated with Extractable Collagen Levels in Normal and Fibrotic Lungs

## Reduction in Pulmonary pSMAD Appears to Be a Marker for Reduction of Fibrosis



Pearson Correlation:  $r=0.6004$   
 $p$  (two-tailed) = 0.0051

- Diagnostic open lung biopsies from 10 patients with ILD and suspected IPF
- 2-3 distinct lung regions sampled from each patient
- 5 controls (non-transplanted lungs)
- Total pSMAD3 had a strong correlation vs. extractable Collagen I (Western Blot)

Adapted from Chapman HA et al. March 12, 2020; 382:1068-1070



The NEW ENGLAND  
JOURNAL of MEDICINE

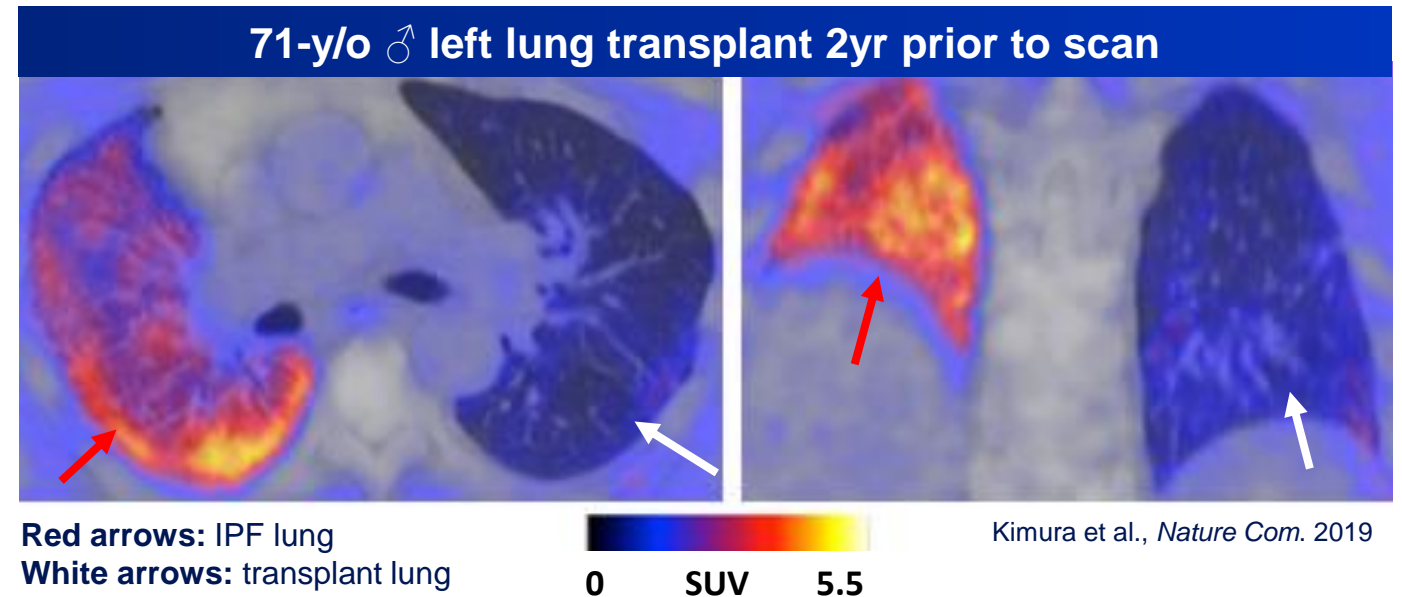
# Phase 2a PET Trial – $\alpha_v\beta_6$ Expression Measured by a PET Ligand is Correlated with Extent of Fibrosis in IPF

## TRIAL DESIGN

- Single-site open-label trial at Stanford University
- Adults with IPF diagnosis (n=12) and FVC  $\geq$  45% of predicted
- Patients receive single oral dose of PLN-74809 with PET scans prior to dosing and at  $T_{max}$  post dose
- Dose cohorts being evaluated: 60 mg, 120 mg, 240 mg, and 320 mg

## ENDPOINTS

- **Primary:** Evaluation of  $\alpha_v\beta_6$  target engagement by PLN-74809 assessed by change in PET tracer uptake following a single oral dose
- **Secondary:** Assessment of safety and tolerability of PLN-74809 in IPF patients
- **Exploratory:** Relationship between PLN-74809 systemic exposure and positron emission tomography (PET) imaging and biomarkers in IPF participants



**PET Ligand Uptake Confined to IPF Lung in Unilateral Lung Transplant Patient**

# Phase 2a PET Trial in IPF – Interim Analysis Methodology

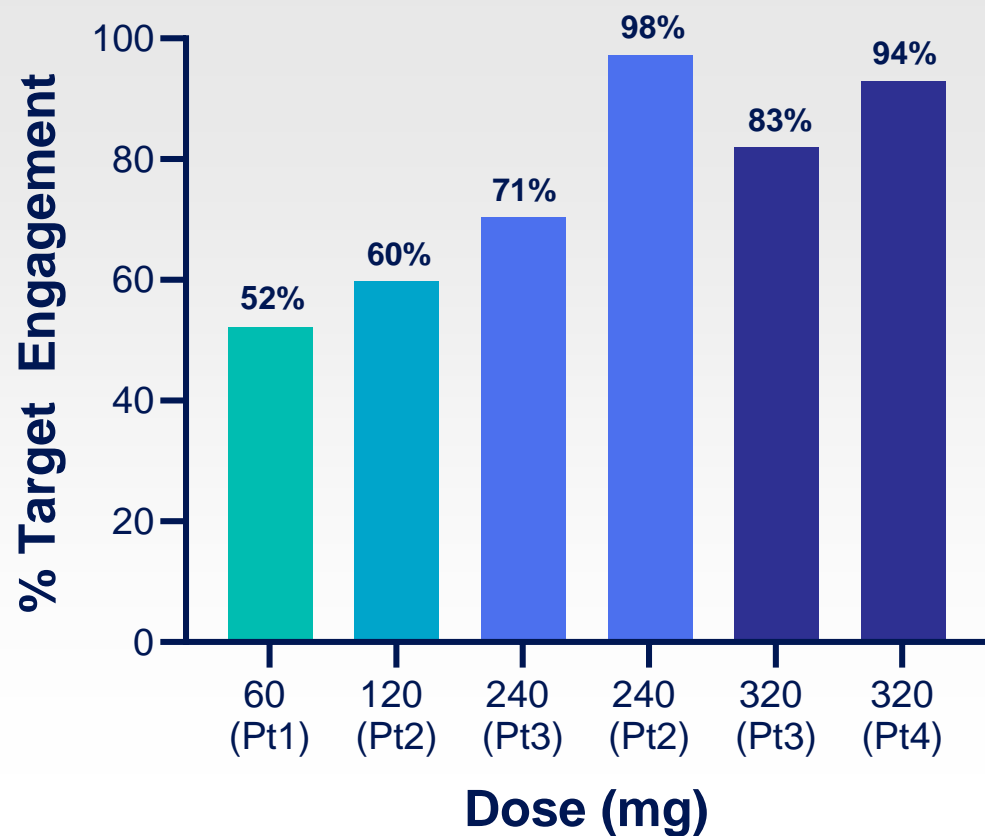
- **PET scan acquisitions at baseline (no drug) and after drug administration (4 hours post-dose)**
  - 1 week interval between baseline and post-dose PET scan acquisition
- **Administration of a single dose of PLN-74809: 60 mg – 120 mg – 240 mg – 320 mg**
- **Interim PK and target engagement data from 6 dose administrations in 4 patients**
  - 2 out of 4 patients received one single dose
  - 2 out of 4 patients received two single doses with at least a 2-week washout interval between doses

	60 mg	120 mg	240 mg	320 mg
Patient 1	x			
Patient 2		x	x	
Patient 3			x	x
Patient 4				x

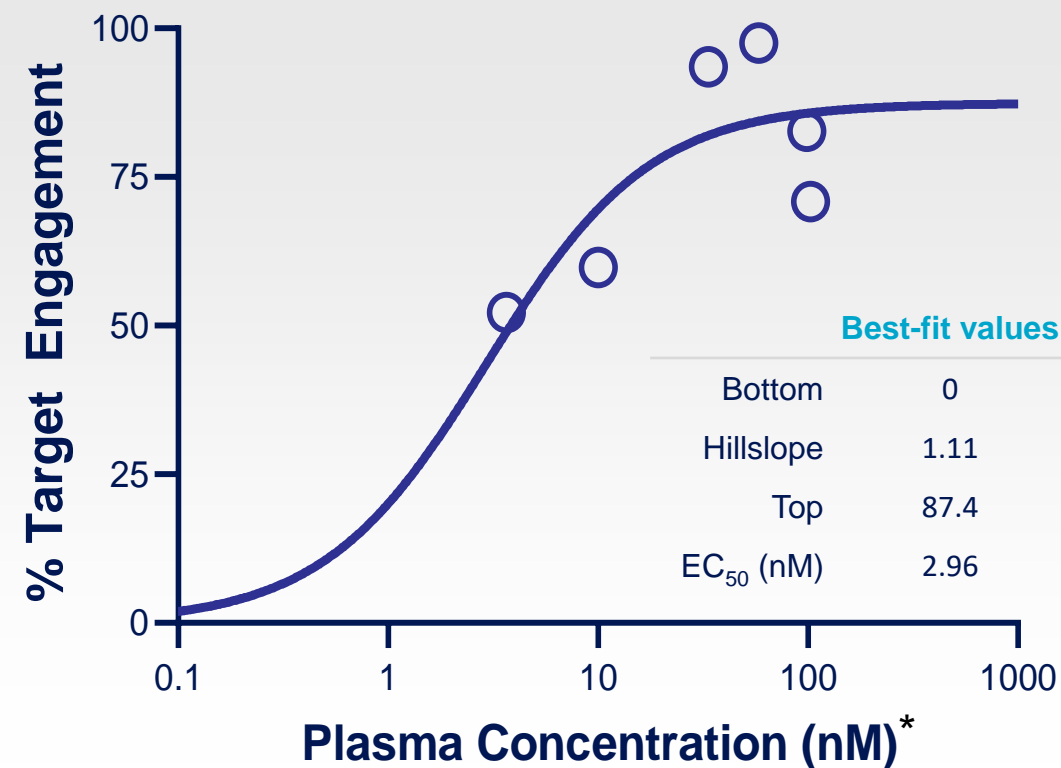
- **All patients on standard of care therapy (nintedanib)**
- **Image analysis for target engagement in highly fibrotic regions of the lungs**

# Dose and Plasma Concentration Dependent Target Engagement

## Dose-Dependent Target Engagement



## Plasma Conc-Dependent Target Engagement



\* Free plasma concentration

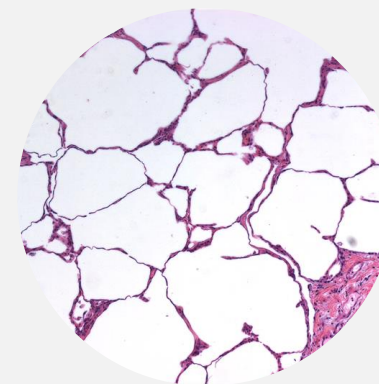
# Putting the Interim Phase 2a PET Data into Perspective

**Target engagement above the threshold for predicted anti-fibrotic activity across all doses (>50% target engagement)**

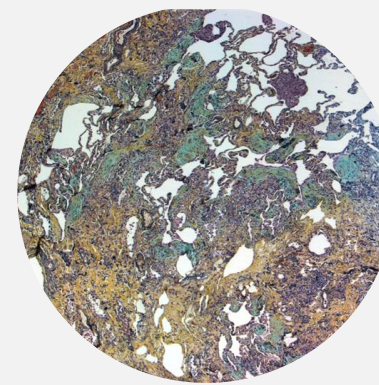
**Dose- and plasma concentration-dependent response approaching target saturation at the two highest doses**

- PLN-74809 penetrates highly fibrotic areas of the lung
- Potential anti-fibrotic activity of PLN-74809 at clinical doses
- Informs dose selection in Phase 2b trials and beyond
- Provides robust PK/PD model to predict exposure-response relationship

**NORMAL LUNG**



**IPF LUNG**





# PLN-74809-IPF-202 [INTEGRIS-IPF]

## Phase 2a Global Safety-PK-Exploratory Efficacy Trial in IPF

Enrollment Complete with Topline Data Expected Mid-2022

Randomization 3:1 (PLN-74809:placebo)

### KEY INCLUSION/EXCLUSION CRITERIA

- Adults with IPF diagnosis
- FVC  $\geq$  45% of predicted
- Stratified for pirfenidone or nintedanib use

Placebo (n=21)

PLN-74809 40 mg (n=21)

PLN-74809 80 mg (n=21)

PLN-74809 160 mg (n=21)

### PRIMARY AND SECONDARY ENDPOINTS

- Safety, tolerability, PK

### EXPLORATORY ENDPOINTS

- Change in FVC over 12 weeks
- High Resolution CT-based Quantitative Lung Fibrosis (QLF) imaging
- Effect on selected biomarkers

Screening  
Day -28

Baseline  
Day 1

Last dose  
Week 12

End of Study  
Week 14

# Quantitative Lung Fibrosis (QLF): A Sensitive Measure of FVC Change Over Time in IPF

- **QLF: a computed tomography (CT) biomarker**
  - Assessment via high resolution CT imaging
    - Standardized and centralized image analysis
  - QLF is an automated quantification of lung fibrosis
    - 94.4% sensitivity and 94.7% specificity
    - Fibrosis presence/ absence detected at threshold level of 1%<sup>1</sup>
- **QLF is a sensitive measure of change over time in IPF**
  - A change of 2% in QLF from baseline correlates with a clinically meaningful worsening or improvement of FVC
  - Moreover, clinically meaningful changes in FVC are associated with statistically significant changes in QLF<sup>2,3</sup>
- **Inverse correlation with:**
  - Percent predicted FVC at 6 & 12 months<sup>3,4</sup>
  - Percent predicted DLCO
  - Progression Free Survival (PFS)

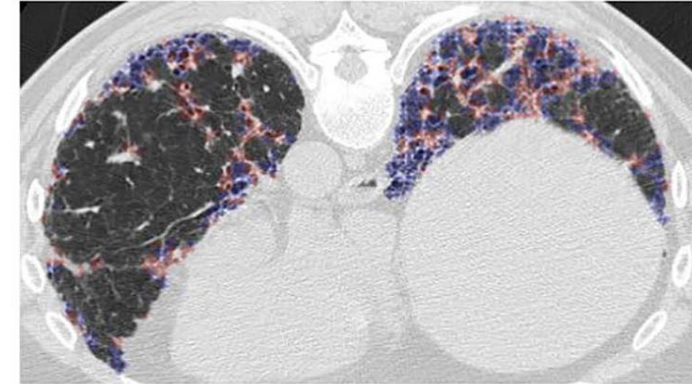
<sup>1</sup> H.Kim and J Goldin et al. *Acad Radiol*;22:70-80; 2015

<sup>2</sup> Kafaja et al. *AJRCCM*;197:644–652, 2018

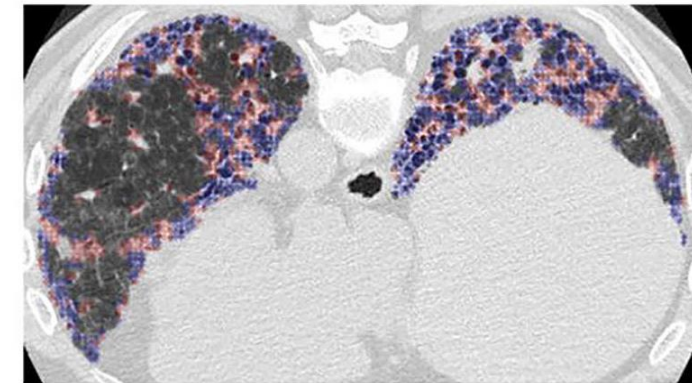
<sup>3</sup> Kim et al. *Ther Adv Respir Dis*; 15: 1–11, 2021

<sup>4</sup> Richeldi et al. *Lancet Respir Med* 2020; 8: 25–33

## Screening



## Week 26



**$\Delta$ FVC= -24%;  $\Delta$ QLF= 7.8%;  $\Delta$ SOBQ= 30**

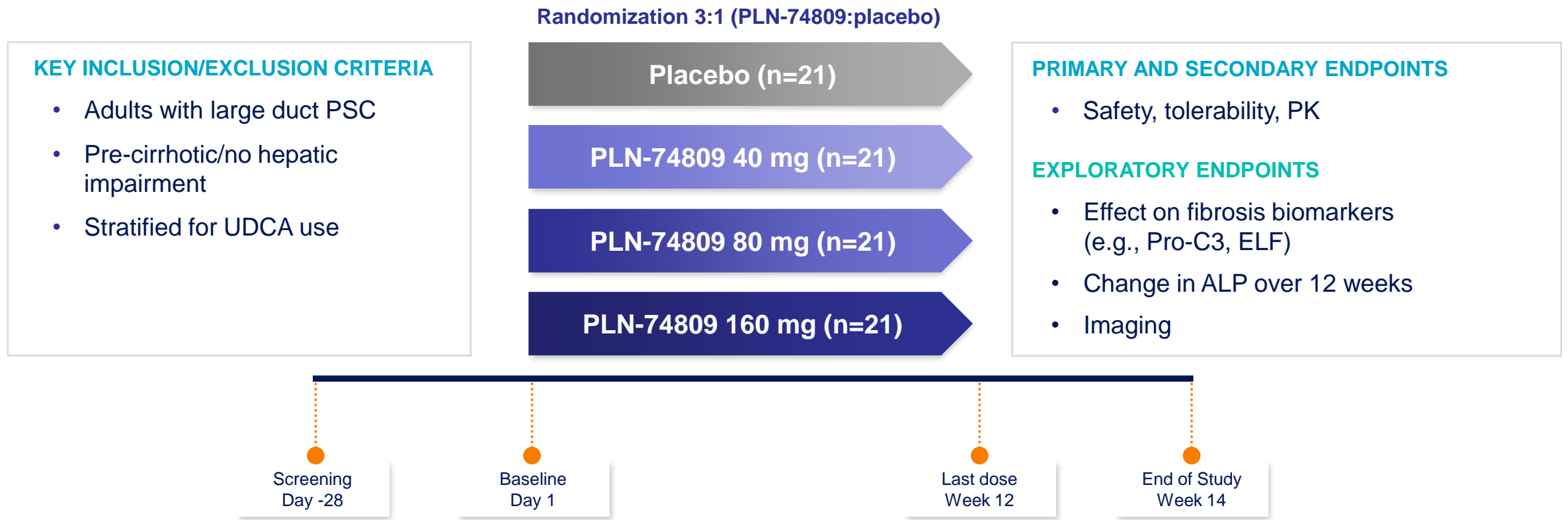
Representative coronal and axial HRCT images from a placebo arm participant in the BMS-986020 P2a study at screening and week 26. Change over 26 weeks: FVC: -24%; QLF score: 7.8%. Classification overlay for QLF score is in blue and red.<sup>3</sup>

DLCO – diffusion capacity for carbon monoxide; FVC, forced vital capacity

# PLN-74809-PSC-203 [INTEGRIS-PSC]

## Phase 2a Global Safety-PK-Fibrosis and Cholestasis Biomarker Trial in PSC

Enrollment Expected to be Completed by Mid-2022



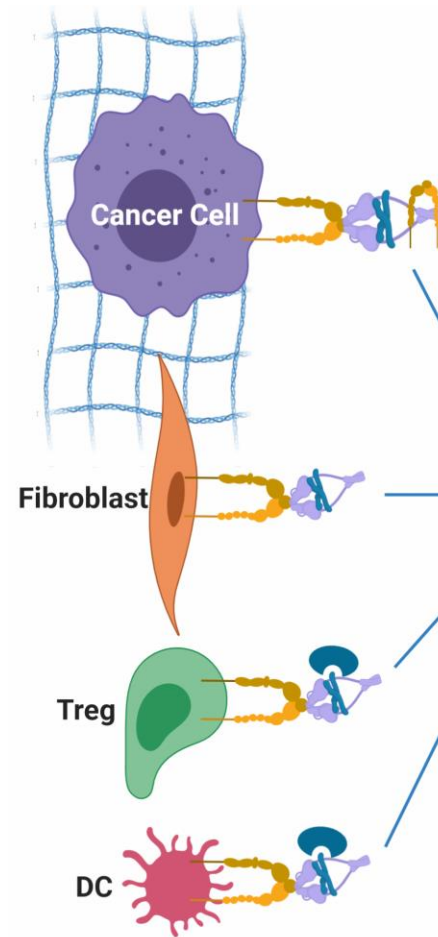


# Pliant's Integrin-Based Oncology Program

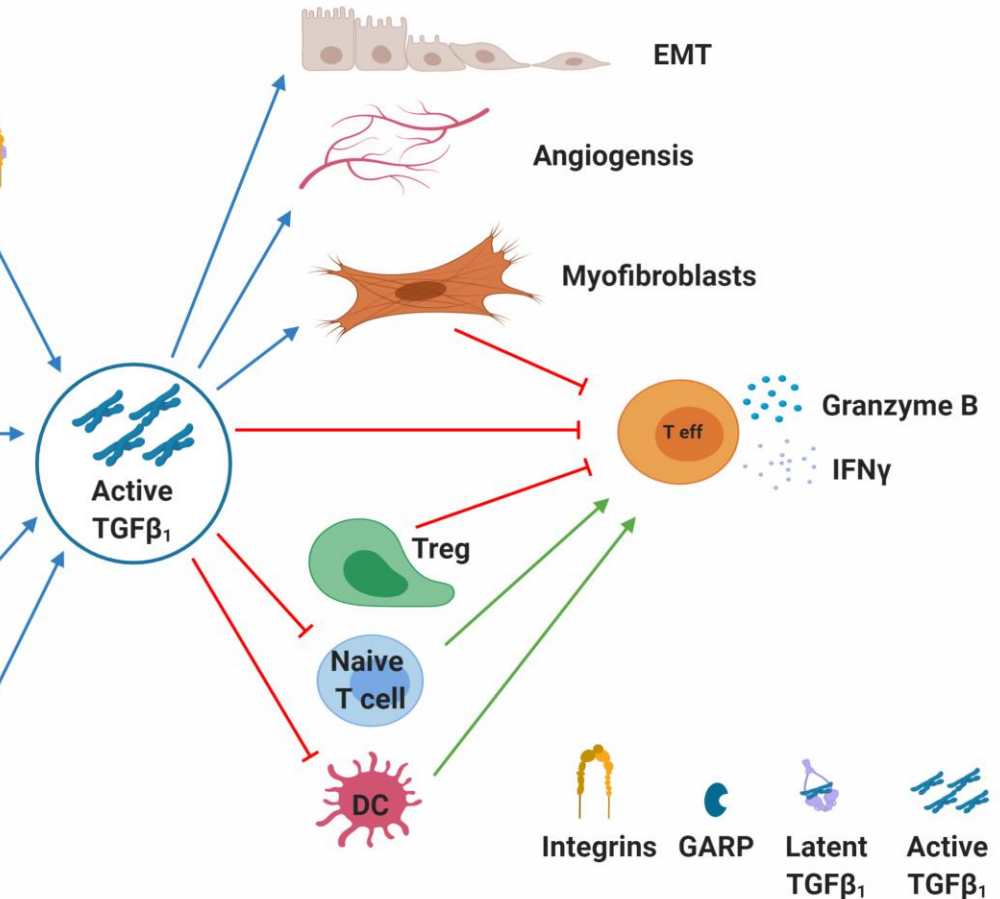
# Activated TGF- $\beta$ Contributes to Immune Exclusion & Evasion, Tumor Metastasis and Angiogenesis

- Integrins activate TGF- $\beta$  on cancer cells and multiple cell types in the tumor micro-environment
- This leads to immune suppression and resistance to I/O therapies
- Selectively inhibiting integrin binding to latent TGF- $\beta$  complex has potential to:
  - Safely block TGF- $\beta$  activation
  - Enhance efficacy of multiple checkpoint inhibition pathways

Integrin Activation of TGF- $\beta$



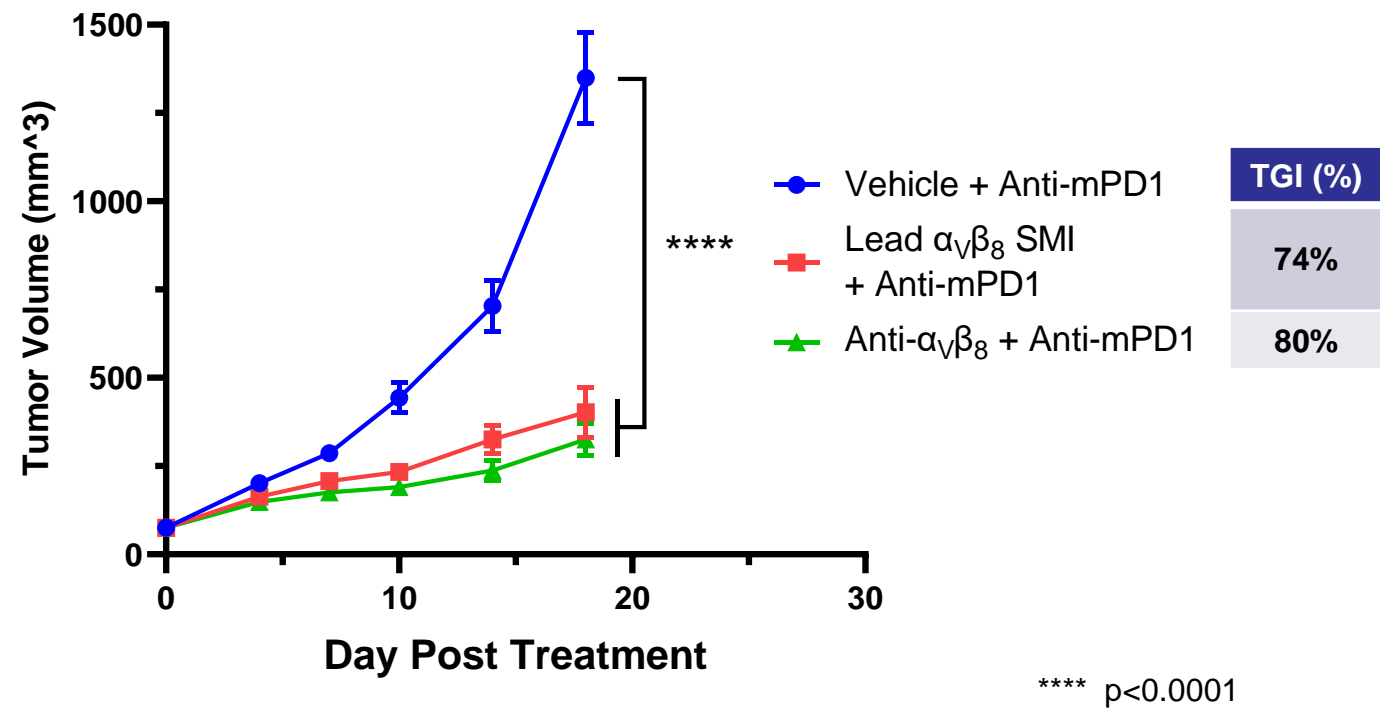
Oncogenic Effects of TGF- $\beta$  Activation



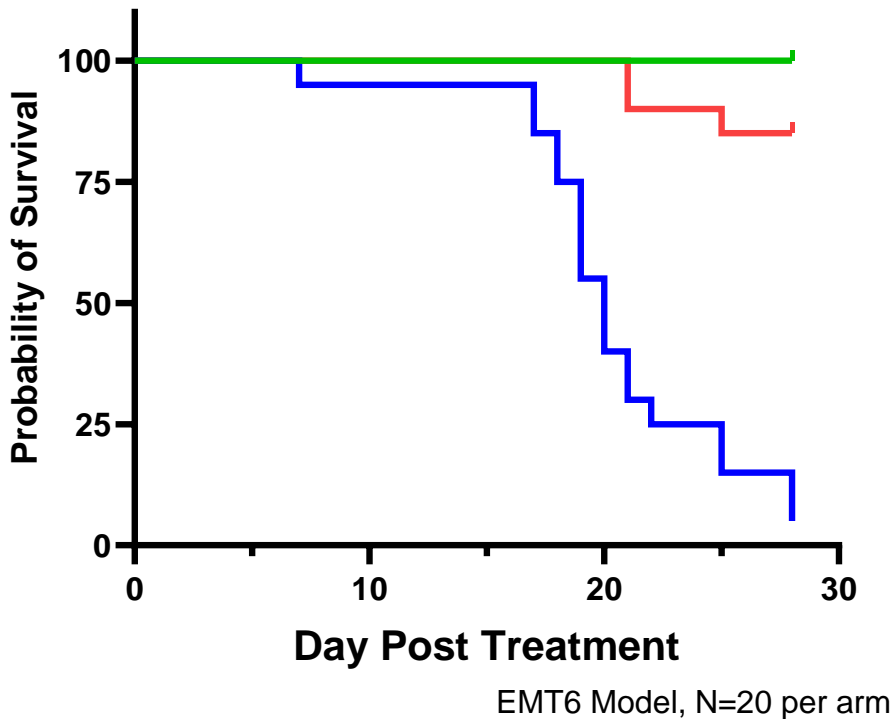


# $\alpha_v\beta_{8/1}$ Inhibitor/ Anti-PD-1 Combo Reduced Tumor Burden and Increased Survival in Preclinical Models vs. Anti-PD-1 Alone

EMT6 Syngeneic Model

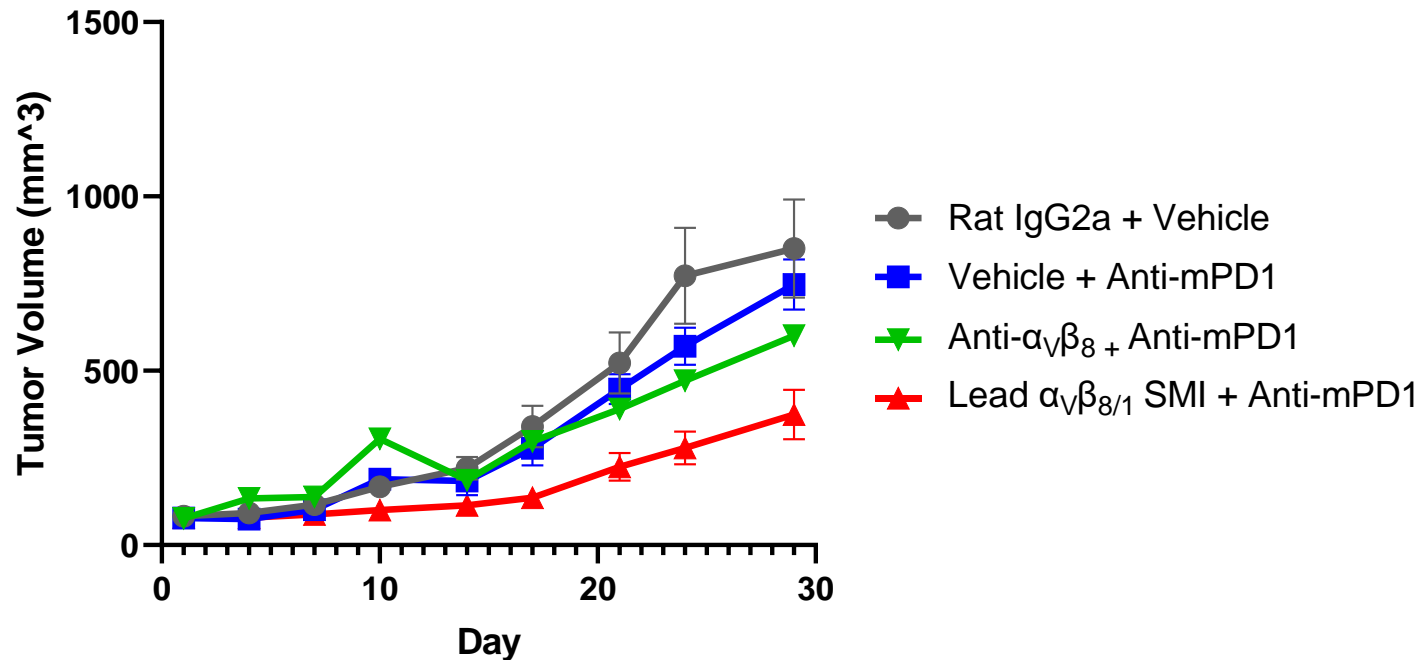


Survival Curve

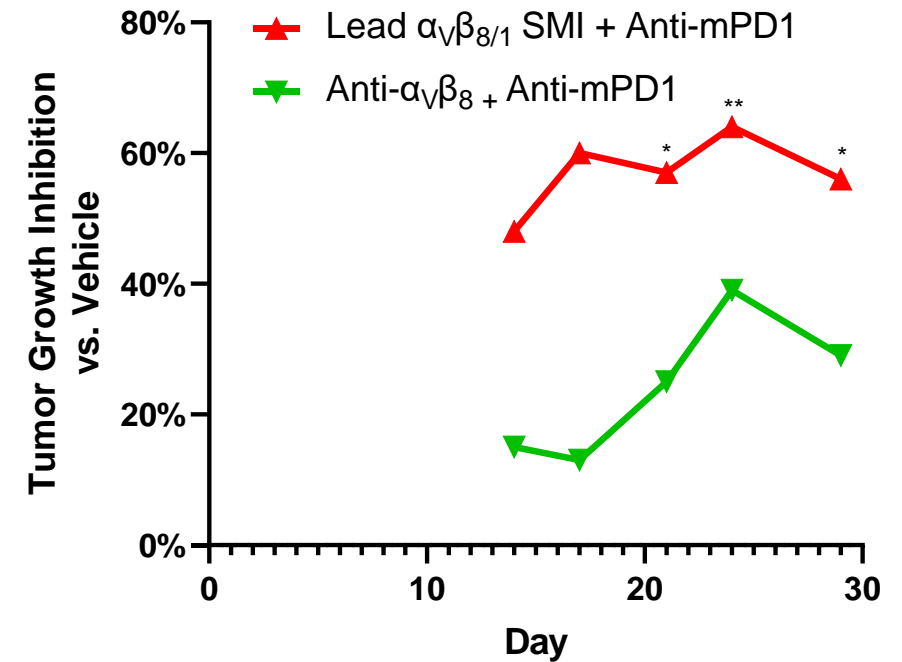


# Lead $\alpha_v\beta_{8/1}$ Inhibitor Superior to Clinical-stage $\alpha_v\beta_8$ Antibody in Pan02 Pancreatic Mouse Syngeneic Model

**Tumor Volume Growth  
Pan02 Syngeneic Model**



**Tumor Growth Inhibition  
by Lead  $\alpha_v\beta_{8/1}$  SMI in Pan02**



\*  $p < 0.05$  vs. vehicle + rat IgG2a  
\*\*  $p < 0.01$  vs. vehicle + rat IgG2a



# Selective Muscle Cell Integrin Agonism for the Treatment of Muscular Dystrophies

# Pliant's Muscular Dystrophy Program – Overview

## Targeting an integrin receptor on the muscle cell surface

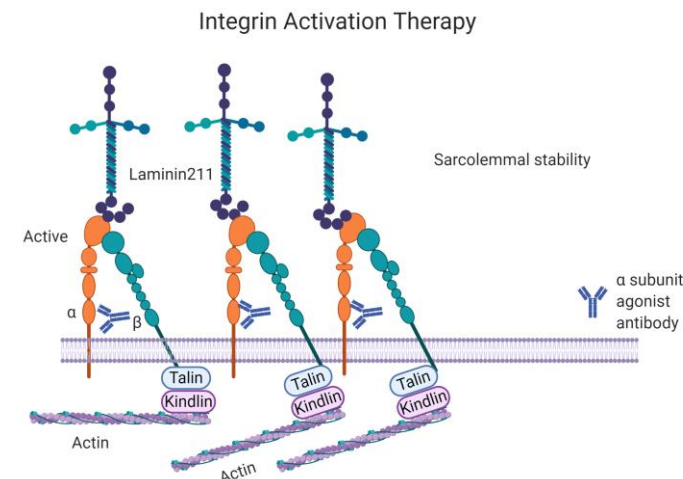
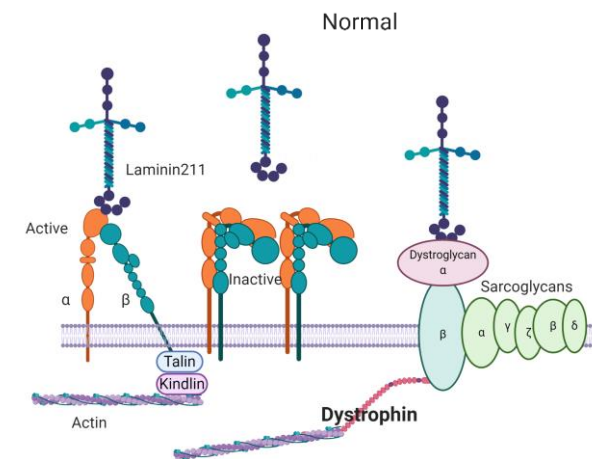
- Integrin target is upregulated as a **compensatory mechanism** in **different types of muscular dystrophy**
- Acts as a **substitute for dystrophin**, helping to stabilize the muscle membrane, decreasing muscle damage
- **Mutations in the target result in human congenital myopathy**

## Allosteric agonistic monoclonal antibody

- Activates the target to **augment the compensatory mechanism**

## Potential to combine across multiple muscular dystrophy indications

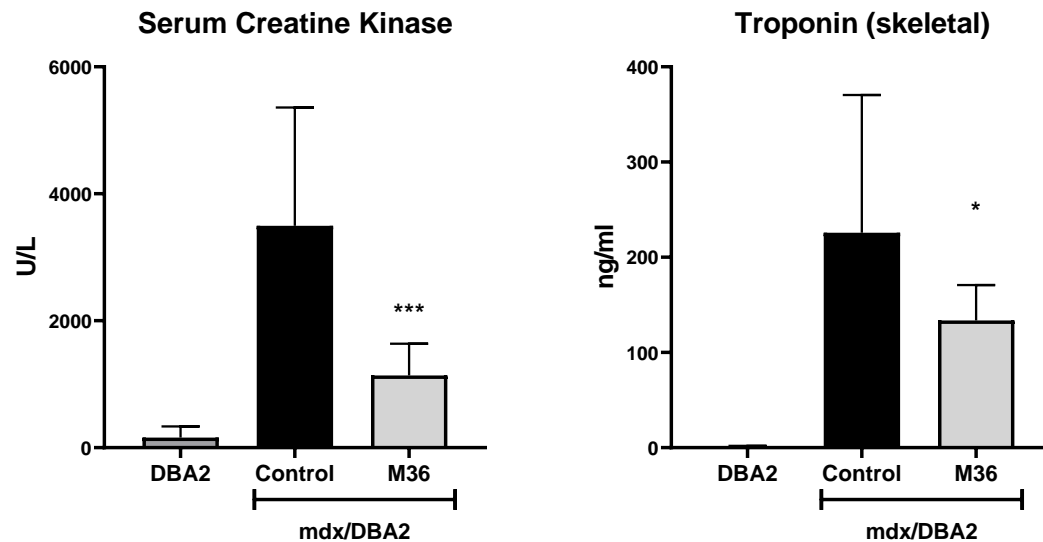
- Target is **upregulated across different forms of muscular dystrophy**
- Mechanism is unrelated to underlying gene mutation
- May be **combined with existing therapies** as well as new modalities (CRISPR, gene therapy,...)



# Pliant's mAb Demonstrated Improved Muscle Membrane Integrity and Diaphragm Function in Mouse DMD Model

## Antibody treatment protected against muscle damage

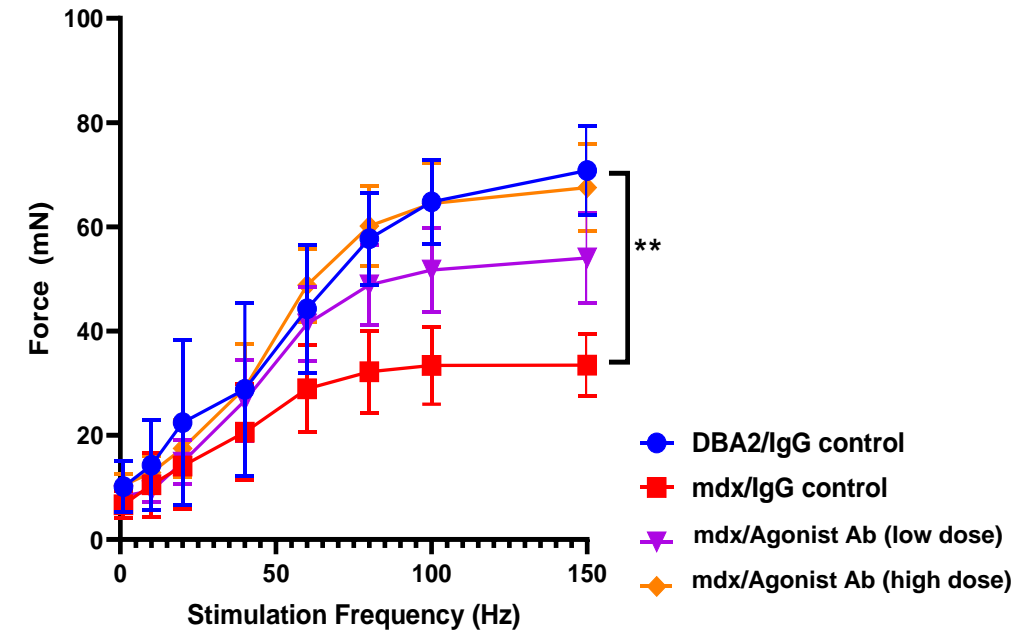
- Reduction of clinical biomarkers including serum creatine kinase and skeletal troponin



Mean +/- SD n=10/group

## Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) causes progressive wasting of cardiac and respiratory muscles (main cause of death)

- Improvement in diaphragm function is expected to significantly improve patient pulmonary function





# Pliant Development Pipeline

	Program	Indication	Preclinical	Clinical			Anticipated Milestone	Global Rights
				Phase I	Phase II	Phase III		
WHOLLY OWNED	<b>PLN-74809</b> Dual selective inhibitor of $\alpha_v\beta_8/\alpha_v\beta_1$	Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis	INTEGRIS-IPF Enrollment Complete				Phase 2a Topline Data Expected Mid-2022	PLIANT
		Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis					Phase 2a Enrollment Complete Expected Mid-2022	PLIANT
	<b>Oncology</b> Inhibitor of $\alpha_v\beta_8$	Solid Tumors					IND Filing Expected YE 2022	PLIANT
	<b>Muscular Dystrophies</b> Anti-integrin mAb	DMD Other Muscular Dystrophies					IND Filing Expected YE 2022	PLIANT
PARTNERED	<b>PLN-1474</b> Selective inhibitor of $\alpha_v\beta_1$	NASH-Associated Liver Fibrosis					Phase 2 Initiation	NOVARTIS



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# Developing Novel Treatments for Fibrotic Diseases

Corporate Presentation

JANUARY 2022