

# GENETICALLY MODULATED SUBSTRATE REDUCTION THERAPY for SANFILIPPO SYNDROME – *proof of principle*

Juliana Inês Santos\*, Maria Francisca Coutinho\*, Paulo Gaspar  
and Sandra Alves

Lysosomal Storage Disorders Group  
Research & Development Unit,  
Department of Human Genetics,  
INSA

# MUCOPOLYSACCHARIDOSIS (MPS) TYPE III

- Autosomal recessive
- Lysosomal Storage Disorders
  - Sub-type of MPSs;  
glycosaminoglycans (GAGs)
  - Accumulated substrate: heparan sulphate

- 4 different diseases:

↙ III A

↙ III B

↙ III C

↙ III D

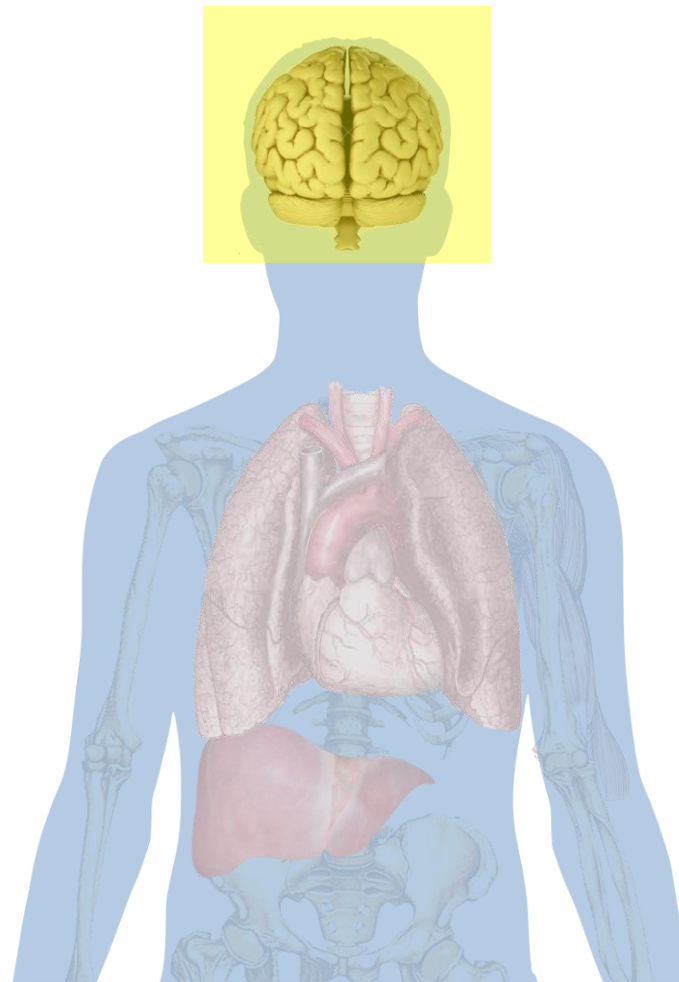
*depending on the defective enzyme*

# MUCOPOLYSACCHARIDOSES (MPS)

- Chronic
- Progressive
- Large spectrum of severity  
& symptoms

## MPS III

(= Sanfilippo Syndrome)



# AVAILABLE THERAPIES

 **None!**

...only symptomatic!

ameliorate symptoms  
support disabled patients

**ERT for neurodegenerative MPS would require the  
introduction of active enzyme into the CNS**



*extra difficulties!*

*Still, it's being attempted with  
some promising results*

# AVAILABLE THERAPIES

👉 None!

... only symptomatic!

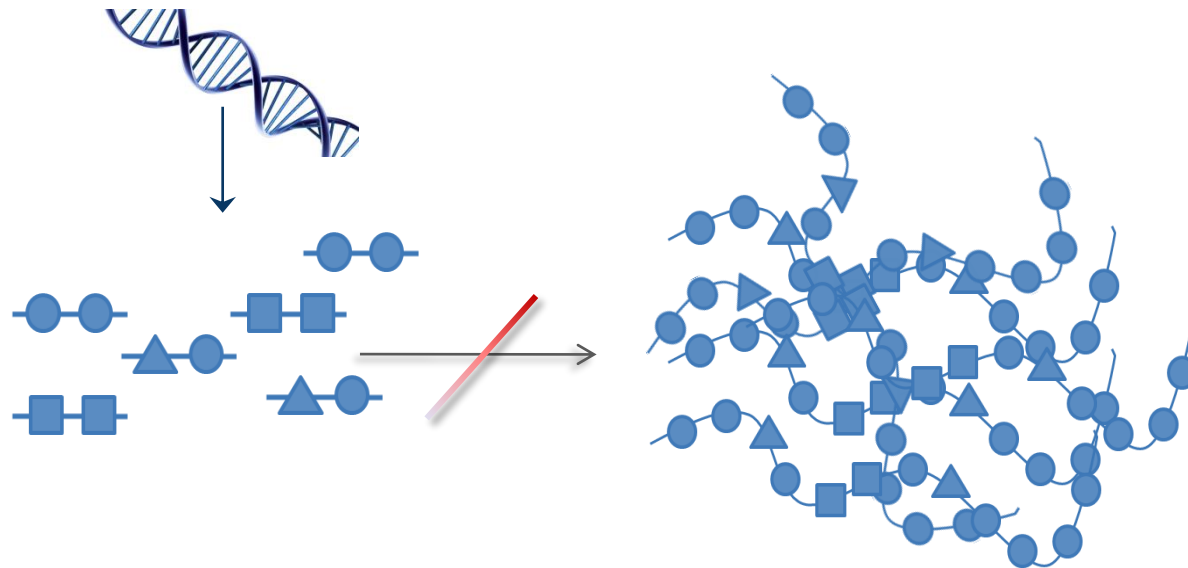
**Perfect Target  
for  
Substrate Reduction  
Approaches!**

ERT for  
introdu



*Still, it's being attempted with  
some promising results*

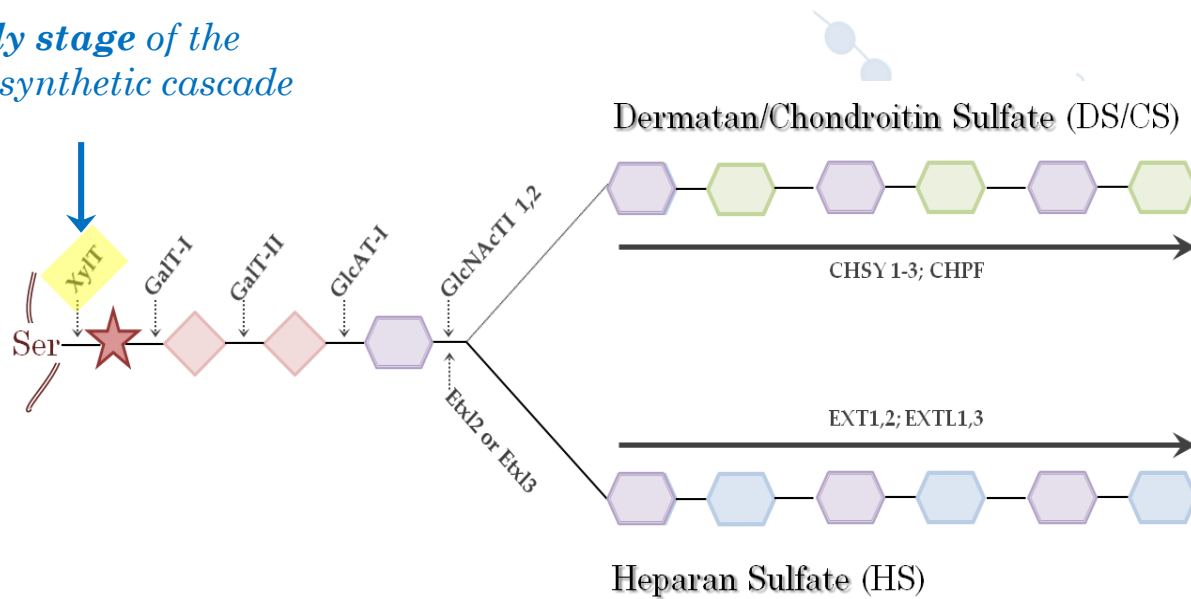
# gSRT FOR MUCOPOLYSACCHARIDOSIS TYPE III



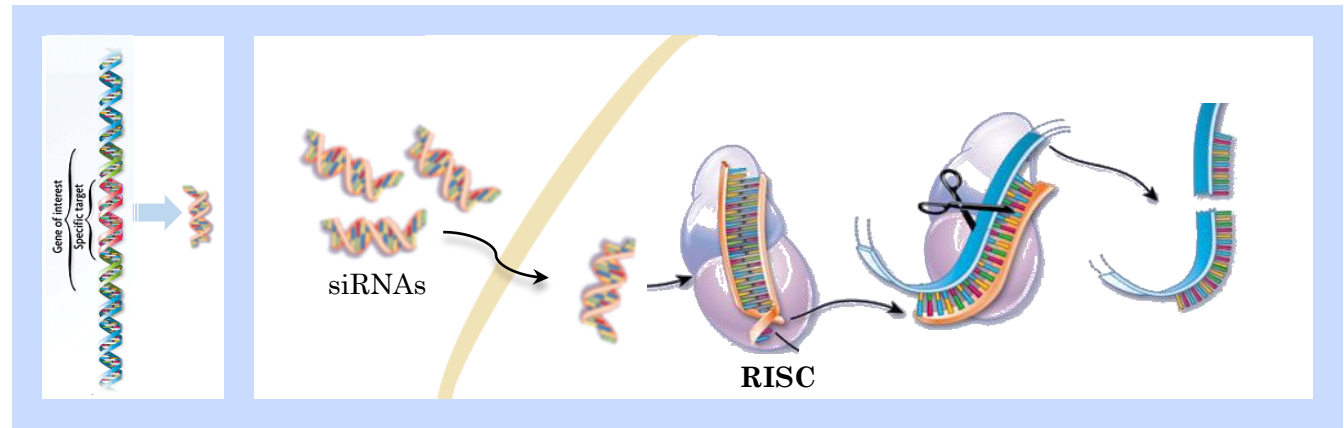
*genetic substrate reduction*

# gSRT FOR MUCOPOLYSACCHARIDOSIS TYPE III

*early stage of the  
HS biosynthetic cascade*



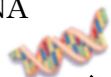
# gSRT FOR MUCOPOLYSACCHARIDOSIS TYPE III



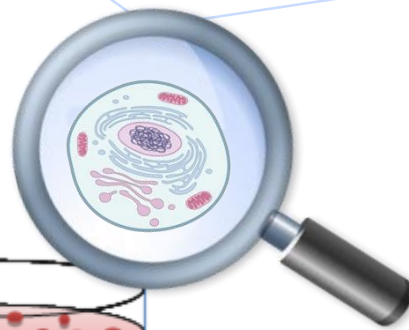
*naturally occurring  
post-transcriptional  
gene silencing process*

Designed to induce RNAi

siRNA

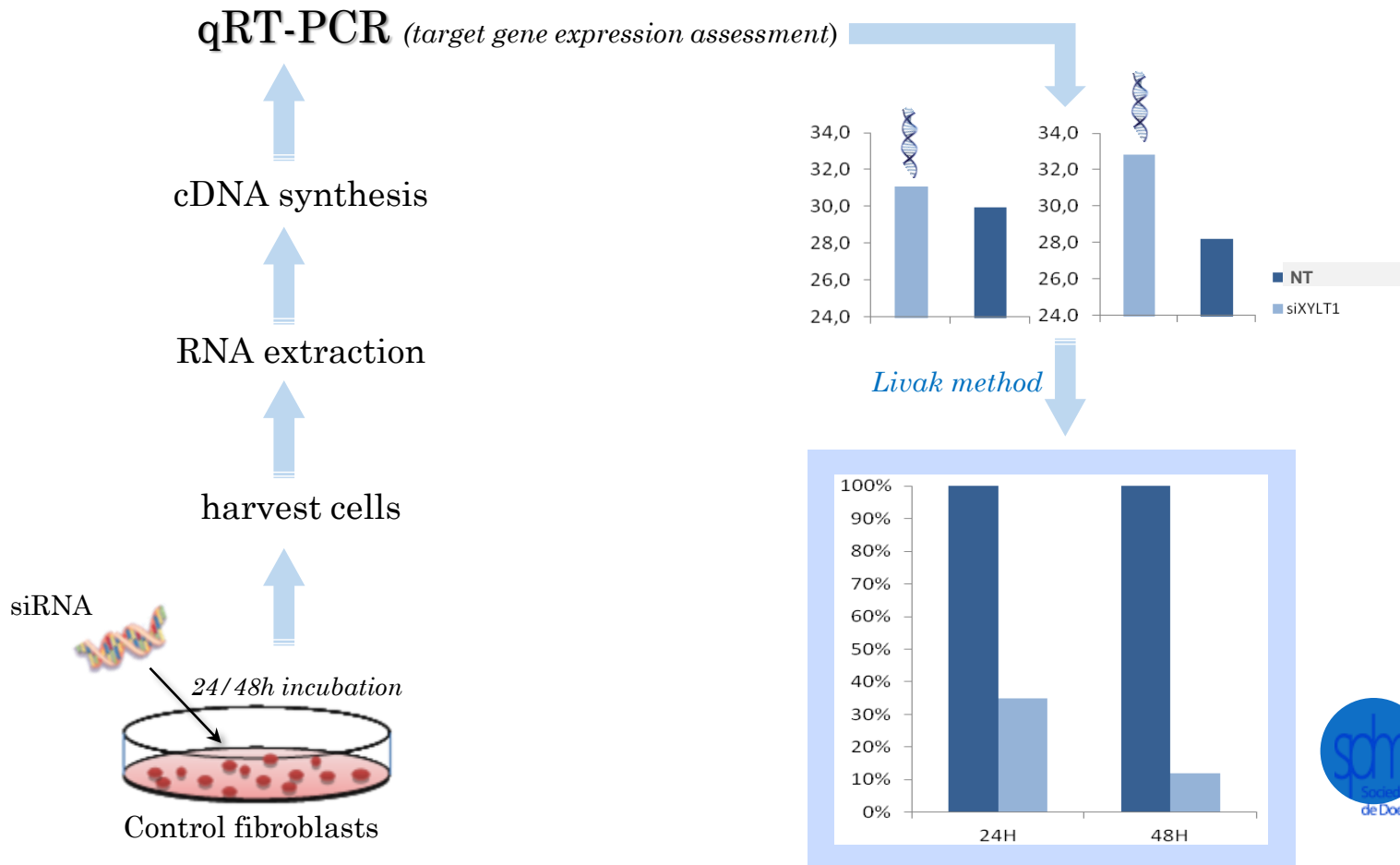


MPS III fibroblasts

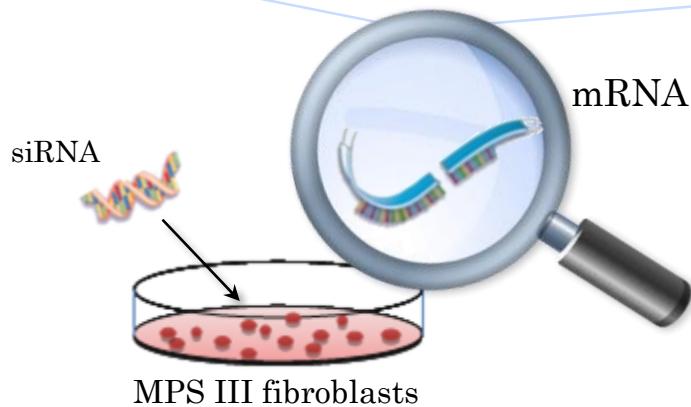
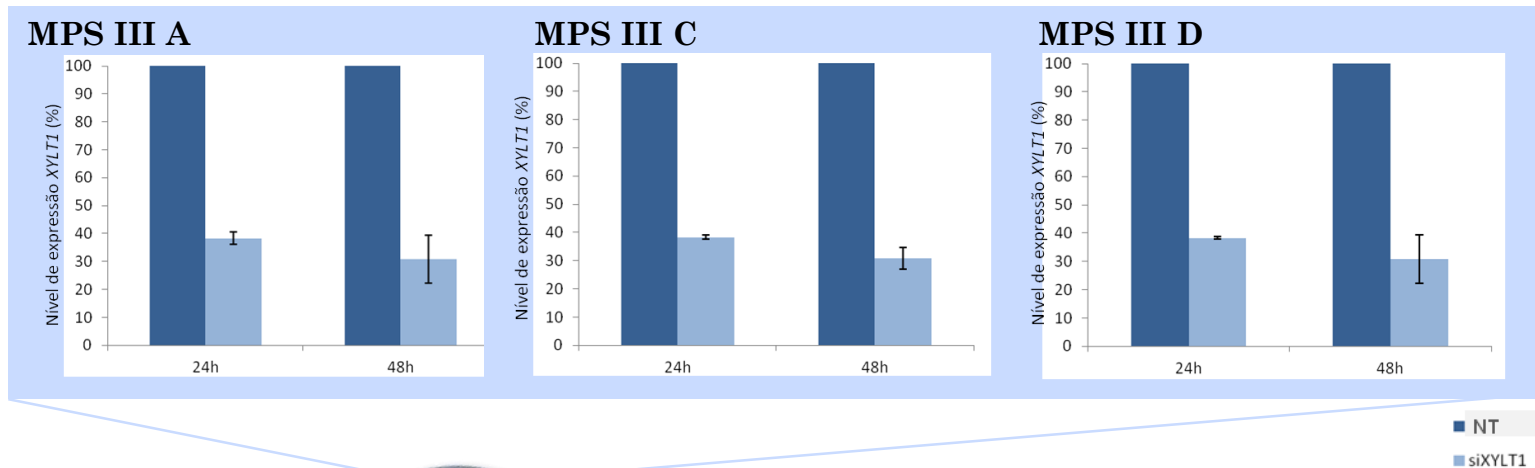




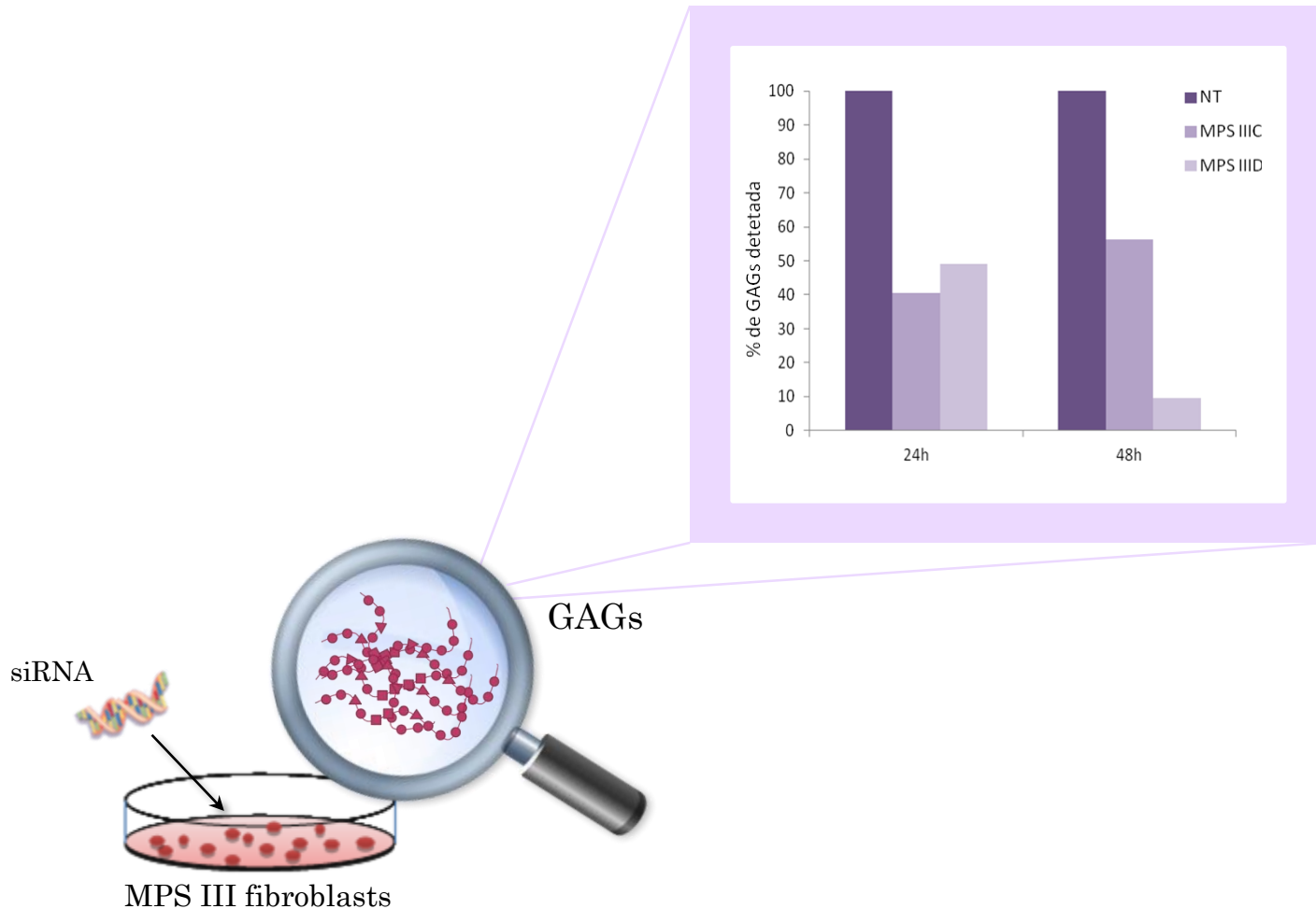
# gSRT FOR MUCOPOLYSACCHARIDOSIS TYPE III



# gSRT FOR MUCOPOLYSACCHARIDOSIS TYPE III



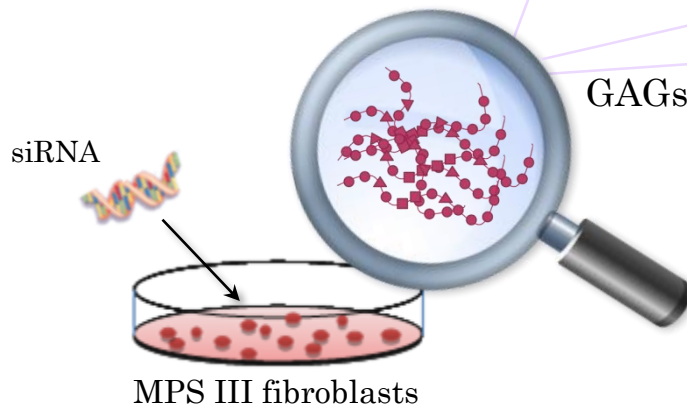
# gSRT FOR MUCOPOLYSACCHARIDOSIS TYPE III



# gSRT FOR MUCOPOLYSACCHARIDOSIS TYPE III

## Further validation:

- ✍ ↑ nr of experiments;
- ✍ immunocytochemistry  
(*anti-HS antibody*)
- ✍ + tests in **MPS IIIB**

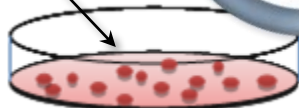
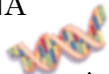


# gSRT FOR MUCOPOLYSACCHARIDOSIS TYPE III

*Promising results!*

*Reasons to keep studying...*

siRNA



MPS III fibroblasts



# A LOOK FORWARD...

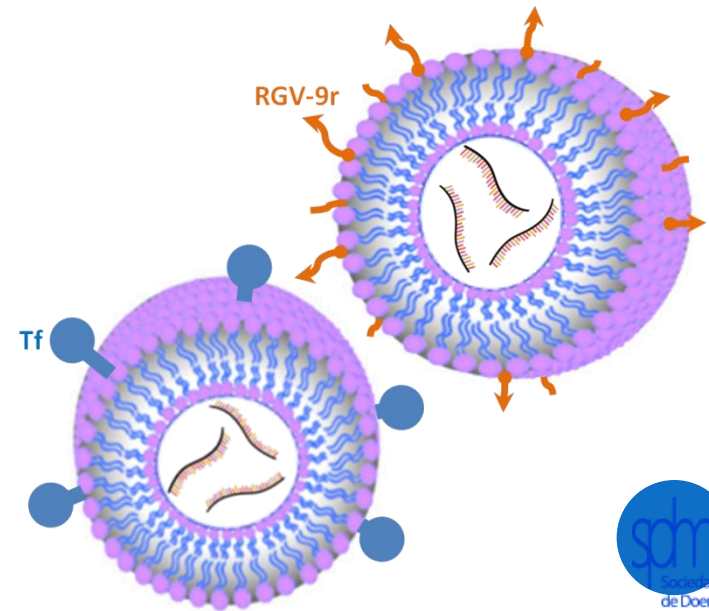
- Vector design & siRNA encapsulation into liposomes

- ↑ bioavailability of siRNAs;
- protection from degradation
- control of
  - circulation time
  - release rate

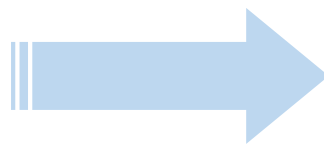
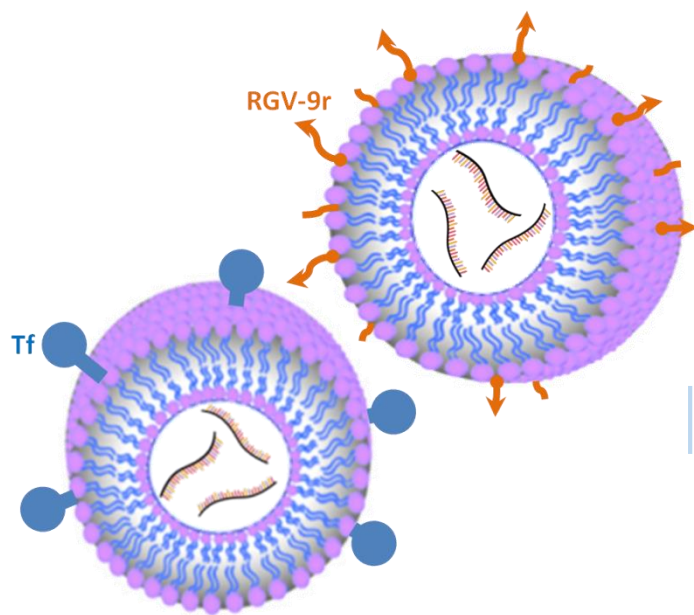
- Coupling of specific ligands to siRNA-carrying liposomes

- Transferrin (Tf)
- Rabies virus peptide derivative (RGV-2r)

- Efficiency assessment  
+ Targeting of brain cells



# A LOOK FORWARD...



*in vivo*  
*studies*



# gSRT FOR MUCOPOLYSACCHARIDOSIS TYPE III

## SUMMARY



**“early stages” GAGs  
biosynthesis gene**

**↓ GAG storage**



# gSRT FOR MUCOPOLYSACCHARIDOSIS TYPE III

## SUMMARY



“early stages” GAGs  
biosynthesis gene

**Therapeutic use ✓**

# gSRT FOR MUCOPOLYSACCHARIDOSIS TYPE III

## SUMMARY



“early stages” GAGs  
biosynthesis gene

Holds potential to benefit  
virtually **all** MPS!

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

**Dr. Sandra Alves**

**Prof. M<sup>a</sup> João Prata**

**Juliana Inês Santos**

**Paulo Gaspar**

**FCT**

Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia  
MINISTÉRIO DA CIÊNCIA, INOVAÇÃO E DO ENSINO SUPERIOR

SFRH/BPD/101965/2014  
SFRH/BD/124372/2016

F U N D A Ç Ã O  
**Millennium**  
bcp

bcp/LIM/DGH/Dz2015



**António Reis ♥**

# THANK YOU!

