### NfL as a Potential Biomarker in hATTR Amyloidosis

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# **Neurofilament Light Chain (NfL)**

# Neurofilament Myelinated axon

### Neurofilament Structure<sup>1</sup>

- Neurofilaments are the most abundant group of proteins in mature myelinated axons<sup>2</sup>
- Neurofilaments perform key roles in neuronal structure and function<sup>1,2</sup>
  - Resistance against external pressure
  - Radial growth of axons
  - Indirect moderation of the conduction velocity
  - Attachment for organelles and other proteins

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# **NfL Pathophysiology**

- Under normal conditions, low levels of NfL are constantly released from axons, with higher levels observed at older ages<sup>1,2</sup>
- In response to central or peripheral axonal damage, the release and levels of NfL in CSF and blood sharply increase<sup>2</sup>
  - Concentration in blood is roughly 40-fold lower than in CSF<sup>2</sup>
  - Strong correlations between blood and CSF NfL levels have been demonstrated<sup>1</sup>

CNS, central nervous system; CSF, cerebrospinal fluid; NfL, neurofilament light chain.

1. Thebault S et al. Biomedicines 2020;8:523; 2. Gaetani L et al. J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry 2019;90:870-881.



# **NfL: A Well–Studied Biomarker in Neurological Disorders**

• NfL has been widely described as a biomarker of neuroaxonal injury across:



### **CNS Diseases**

- Multiple sclerosis<sup>1</sup>
- Alzheimer's disease<sup>2,3</sup>
- Huntington's disease<sup>4</sup>

### Review

Blood Neurofilament Light Chain: The Neurologist's Troponin?<sup>9</sup> Thebault S et al. Biomedicines 2020;8:523

### **PNS Diseases**

- Vasculitic neuropathy<sup>5</sup>
- Chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy<sup>6</sup>
- Guillain-Barré syndrome<sup>7</sup>
- Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease<sup>8</sup>

### Scientific Commentaries Peripheral Blood Neurofilament Light Chain Levels: The Neurologist's C-reactive Protein?<sup>10</sup> Giovannoni G et al. Brain 2018;141:2235–2237

CNS, central nervous system; NfL, neurofilament light chain; PNS, peripheral nervous system.

1. Thebault S et al. Mult Scler 2022; 28(10): 1491-1497; 2. Lewczuk P et al. Alzheimers Res Ther 2018;10:71; 3. Lin YS et al. Sci Rep 2018;8:17368;

4. Byrne LM et al. Lancet Neurol 2017;16:601–609; 5. Bischof A et al. Ann Rheum Dis 2018;77:1093–1094; 6. Van Lieverloo GGA et al. J Peripher Nerv Syst 2019;24:187–194; 7. Mariotto S et al.

J Peripher Nerv Syst 2018;23:174–177; 8. Sandelius A et al. Neurology 2018;90:e518–e524; 9. Thebault S et al. Biomedicines 2020;8:523; 10. Giovannoni G et al. Brain 2018;141:2235–2237.



# NfL is Being Evaluated as a Potential Biomarker for PN in hATTR Amyloidosis

Study/analysis/publication	Patient population and analyses
Alnylam Pharmaceuticals analyses*	
APOLLO <sup>1,2</sup>	Analysis of the proteome and NfL levels at baseline and through 18 months of patisiran and placebo treatment in hATTR amyloidosis patients with PN
HELIOS–A <sup>3</sup>	Analysis of NfL levels at baseline in hATTR amyloidosis patients with PN
Patisiran global OLE <sup>4–6</sup>	Analysis of NfL levels through 24 months of patisiran treatment in hATTR amyloidosis patients with PN during their participation in the Global OLE following APOLLO and phase 2 OLE
Patisiran phase 2 OLE <sup>5</sup>	Analysis of NfL levels in hATTR amyloidosis patients with PN through 24 months of patisiran treatment
External analyses	
Kapoor et al. (2019) <sup>7</sup>	Analysis of NfL levels in hATTR amyloidosis patients with PN and asymptomatic carriers of various <i>TTR</i> variants
Maia et al. (2020) <sup>8</sup>	Analysis of NfL levels in hATTR amyloidosis patients with PN ( <i>V30M</i> variant) and asymptomatic carriers of <i>V30M</i> variant of <i>TTR</i>
Louwsma et al. (2020) <sup>9</sup>	Analysis of NfL levels in hATTR amyloidosis patients with PN and asymptomatic carriers of various variants of <i>TTR</i> , and patients with AL amyloidosis with and without PN

\* All NfL and other proteomic analyses conducted by Alnylam and presented in this deck are post-hoc

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AL, amyloid light–chain; ATTR, transthyretin–mediated; hATTR, hereditary transthyretin–mediated; NfL, neurofilament light chain; OLE, open–label extension; TTR, transthyretin; PN, polyneuropathy.

1. Ticau S et al. *Neurology* 2021;96:e412–e422; 2. Adams D et al. *N Engl J Med* 2018;379:11–21; 3. Alnylam Pharmaceuticals. Data on file; 4. Ticau S et al. *PNS Virtual Meeting* 2020; 5. Polydefkis M et al. *AAN Virtual Meeting* 2021; 6. Ticau S et al. *HFSA Virtual Meeting* 2020; 7. Kapoor M et al. *J Peripher Nerv Syst* 2019;24:314–319; 8. Maia LF et al. *Amyloid* 2020;27:97–102; 9. Louwsma J et al. *Amyloid* 2020;28:50–55.



# Analyses from the APOLLO Study<sup>1\*</sup>

### Neurofilament Light Chain as a Biomarker of Hereditary Transthyretin-Mediated Amyloidosis

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Neurology<sup>®</sup> 2021;96:e412-e422. doi:10.1212/WNL.000000000011090

### **Objective**

 To identify changes in the proteome and NfL levels associated with the onset and progression of hATTR amyloidosis, and treatment with patisiran in patients with the polyneuropathy of hATTR amyloidosis who participated in the phase 3 APOLLO study<sup>1</sup>

\* All NfL and other proteomic analyses conducted by Alnylam and presented in this deck are post-hoc

hATTR, hereditary transthyretin–mediated; NfL, neurofilament light chain.

1. Ticau S et al. *Neurology* 2021;96:e412–e422



# Analyses from the APOLLO Study<sup>1</sup>

### **Methods**

- Post-hoc analysis of plasma samples in a subset of patients enrolled in the APOLLO study<sup>2</sup> who completed the study and consented to a biomarker discovery study
  - Levels of 1,161 unique proteins (including NfL) were measured semi–quantitatively (Olink<sup>®</sup> Proteomics, Watertown, MA, USA)
  - Subsequent quantitative measurements of NfL were made using an ultrasensitive single molecule array (Simoa) method
- Healthy control samples were collected separately and were age, sex, and race matched to the baseline demographics of the APOLLO patients (Dx Biosamples, LLC, San Diego, CA, USA)

### **Overview of the Analyses and Samples Analyzed**



NfL, neurofilament light chain.

1. Ticau S et al. *Neurology* 2021;96:e412–e422; 2. Adams D et al. *N Engl J Med* 2018;379:11–21.



# **NfL Time Profile was Significantly Different between** Patisiran and Placebo

### **Results: Proteomic Analysis**

- A linear mixed model was used to determine the • effect of patisiran treatment on the time profile of the plasma level of each protein by analyzing levels at baseline, 9 months, and 18 months
- The levels of 66 proteins, including NfL, changed significantly in patients treated with placebo versus patisiran over time ( $p < 4.18 \times 10^{-5}$ )
- NfL had the **most significant change** ٠  $(p=3.95\times10^{-21})$

### Change in Levels of Proteins in Patients Treated with Patisiran vs. Placebo over 18 Months



Proteins are shown here as a volcano plot, with the strength of the association on the y-axis ( $-\log_{10}$  [p value]) and the effect size on the x-axis (shown as the treatment × time point coefficient from the model).

CCDC80, coiled-coil domain containing 80; EDA2R, ectodysplasin-A2 receptor; N-CDase, neutral ceramidase; NfL, neurofilament light chain; NT-proBNP, N-terminal prohormone of brain-type natriuretic peptide; RSPO3, R-spondin 3.

Ticau S et al. Neurology 2021;96:e412-e422. 9



# NfL May Serve as a Biomarker for Disease Progression<sup>1–3</sup>

### **Results: Semi-quantitative NfL Measurements**

- Patients diagnosed with hATTR amyloidosis with PN had >4–fold higher levels of NfL compared with healthy controls, independent of age adjustment (p<0.0001)</li>
- NfL levels **significantly increased** in the placebo group at 18 months relative to baseline (p<0.001)
- NfL levels **significantly decreased** in the patisiran group at 18 months relative to baseline (p<0.001)

### Change in NfL Levels in Patients Treated with Placebo or Patisiran over 18 Months



Levels of NfL (normalized protein expression values, which are on a  $\log_2$  scale) in healthy controls and patients treated with placebo or patisiran at baseline, 9 months, or 18 months. Boxplots show the first quartile, median, and third quartile of the data. The whiskers are the minimum and maximum values within 1.5 × the interquartile range.

hATTR, hereditary transthyretin–mediated; NfL, neurofilament light chain; PN, polyneuropathy.

10 1. Ticau S et al. Neurology 2021;96:e412–e422; 2. Ticau S et al. EU–ATTR 2019; 3. Ticau S et al. HFSA Virtual Meeting 2020.



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NfL Levels (Mean ± Standard Error) in Patients Treated with Patisiran or Placebo at Baseline, 9, and 18 Months





# NfL May Serve as a Biomarker for Disease Progression<sup>1,2</sup>

### **Results: Quantitative NfL Measurements**

- Patients diagnosed with hATTR ٠ amyloidosis with PN had significantly higher levels of NfL compared with healthy controls (p<0.0001 for both patisiran and placebo groups at baseline)
- NfL levels significantly increased in the ٠ placebo group at 18 months relative to baseline (p < 0.001)
- NfL levels significantly decreased in the ٠ patisiran group at 18 months relative to baseline (p < 0.001)

### Levels of NfL in Healthy Controls and Patients Treated with Placebo or Patisiran at Baseline and 18 months



Numbers represent mean NfL levels. Boxplots show the first quartile, median, and third guartile of the data. The whiskers are the minimum and maximum values within 1.5 × the interquartile range. One outlier with a study-unrelated cerebral infarct at Month 17 with NfL plasma levels of 747 pg/mL in the patisiran-treated group was excluded from the calculations.

1. Ticau S et al. Neurology 2021;96:e412-e422; 2. Ticau S et al. HFSA Virtual Meeting 2020.

# $\mathscr{Y}$ Alnylam

# Changes in NfL Levels were Correlated with Changes in the Severity of PN

### **Results: Individual Patient Trajectories**

Changes in plasma NfL levels were correlated with changes in mNIS+7 score at 18 months (R=0.4 [95% CI: 0.27–0.51]), indicating that decreasing plasma NfL levels are associated with an improvement in PN



**NfL Trajectories of Patients Over Time** 

Trajectories of individual patients receiving placebo or patisiran over time, color-coded by their corresponding worsening (change in mNIS+7 score >0; red) or improvement (change in mNIS+7 score <0; blue) in mNIS+7 score from baseline to 18 months.

CI, confidence interval; mNIS, modified Neuropathy Impairment Score; NfL, neurofilament light chain; PN, polyneuropathy.

13 Ticau S et al. *Neurology* 2021;96:e412–e422.

### Correlation Between Change in NfL Levels from Baseline to 18 Months and the Corresponding Change In mNIS+7





# NfL Levels Differentiated Patients with hATTR Amyloidosis from Healthy Controls

 Receiver–operating characteristic analysis determined that plasma NfL levels could discriminate between healthy controls and patients with hATTR amyloidosis with PN (AUC: 0.956)



**ROC curve analysis of NfL** 

# ROC curve analysis of NfL plasma levels in healthy controls versus patients with hATTR amyloidosis with PN

**Distributions of NfL Concentrations in Healthy Controls and APOLLO Patients** 



Histograms showing the distributions of NfL concentrations in healthy controls (dark gray) and patients with hATTR amyloidosis at baseline (green).

One outlier with a study–unrelated cerebral infarct at Month 17 with NfL plasma levels of 747 pg/mL in the patisiran–treated group was excluded from the calculations.

AUC, area under the curve; hATTR, hereditary transthyretin-mediated; NfL, neurofilament light chain; PN, polyneuropathy; ROC, receiver operator characteristic.



# NfL Levels Decreased when Placebo Patients Started Patisiran

### **12 Months in the Global OLE: APOLLO Patients**

- NfL levels remained steady after 12 months in the Global OLE for the APOLLO-patisiran patients (mean 48.8 pg/mL vs 50.0 pg/mL)
- NfL levels decreased significantly after 12 months of patisiran treatment in APOLLO-placebo patients (mean 99.5 pg/mL vs 65.6 pg/mL; p<0.001)</li>

### Plasma NfL Levels of Healthy Controls and Patients from the APOLLO and Global OLE Studies at Baseline: 18 Months and 30 Months\*



Numbers represent mean NfL levels. Boxplots show the first quartile, median, and third quartile of the data. The whiskers are the minimum and maximum values within  $1.5 \times$  the interquartile range.

\*One individual with NfL levels of 747 pg/mL at 18 months and a cerebral stroke at 17 months was excluded from the analysis.

## $\cdot \mathcal{Y}$ Alnylam

# NfL Levels Decreased when Placebo Patients Started Patisiran<sup>1</sup>

**12 Months in the Global OLE: APOLLO Patients<sup>1,2</sup>** 



\*One individual with NfL levels of 747 pg/mL at 18 months and a cerebral stroke at 17 months was excluded from the analysis.

mNIS+7, modified Neuropathy Impairment Score +7; NfL, neurofilament light chain; OLE, open-label extension; SEM, standard error of the mean.

16 1. Ticau S et al. *PNS Virtual Meeting* 2020; 2. Adams D et al. *Lancet Neurol* 2021;20:49–59.



# NfL Levels Remained Reduced with Continued Patisiran Treatment

### 24 Months in the Global OLE: APOLLO Patients

- At Month 24 of the Global OLE, the reduction in NfL levels from parent study baseline in the APOLLO–patisiran group **continued to be significant** (mean 44.0 pg/mL, p<0.001)
- In the APOLLO-placebo group, the reduction of NfL levels observed at the end of Month 12 of the Global OLE continued at 24 months (mean 44.2 pg/mL) to reach levels below the APOLLO baseline and to a similar level to the APOLLO-patisiran group

### NfL Levels during APOLLO and the Global OLE



### Change in NfL from Parent Study Baseline



#### Numbers represent mean NfL levels

NfL, neurofilament light chain; OLE, open-label extension; SEM, standard error of the mean.

17 Polydefkis M et al. AAN Virtual Meeting 2021.



# **NfL Levels Decreased with Patisiran Treatment**

### 24 Months in the Global OLE: Phase 2 OLE Patients

 Reduction in NfL levels from parent study baseline was significant at Month 24 of the Global OLE (p<0.001) in Phase 2 OLE patients

### NfL Levels in Healthy Controls and Patients Treated with Patisiran at Baseline, during Phase 2 OLE, and Global OLE



Mean Change from Baseline in NfL Levels in Patients Treated with Patisiran in the Phase 2 OLE and Global OLE

NfL, neurofilament light chain; OLE, open-label extension; SEM, standard error of the mean.

18 Poldefkis M et al. AAN Virtual Meeting 2021.



# HELIOS-A Results Support that NfL Levels are Increased in hATTR Amyloidosis Patients with PN

 Post-hoc analyses demonstrated that baseline NfL levels in the patient populations of the APOLLO and HELIOS-A studies were significantly higher than in healthy controls (p<0.001)</li>

### Treatment Arms of the APOLLO and HELIOS-A Studies

### **Baseline NfL Levels in APOLLO and HELIOS-A Studies**





# HELIOS-A Results Support that NfL Levels Significantly Decreased Following Treatment with RNAi Therapeutics

- In HELIOS-A, NfL levels in both the vutrisiran and patisiran groups decreased significantly from baseline as early 4 months (p<0.05), and these were maintained to 18 months post-treatment initiation (p<0.01)</li>
  - · These results are consistent with the results in patisiran-treated patients from APOLLO
- A positive moderate correlation (R=0.32) was observed between change in NfL levels and change in mNIS+7 in HELIOS-A and APOLLO at 18 months

Change in NfL Levels from Baseline in APOLLO and HELIOS-A Studies

### Correlation between Change in mNIS+7 and Change in NfL Levels from Baseline in APOLLO and HELIOS-A







# **Summary**

- NfL is a well-studied biomarker for neuroaxonal injury in various central and peripheral nervous system diseases<sup>1-4</sup>
- NfL levels are found to be elevated in patients with PN of hATTR amyloidosis versus healthy controls<sup>5–7</sup>
- Treatment with RNAi therapeutics significantly lowered levels of NfL in patients with hATTR amyloidosis with polyneuropathy.<sup>5,9</sup> This occurred as early as Day 126 and remained low over time<sup>8,9</sup>

- 1. Thebault S et al. Mult Scler 2022; 28(10): 1491-1497; 2. Lewczuk P et al. Alzheimers Res Ther 2018;10(1):71; 3. Bischof A et al. Ann Rheum Dis 2018;77(7):1093–1094; 4. Van Lieverloo GGA et al. J Peripher Nerv Sys 2019;24(2):187–194; 5. Ticau S et al. Neurology 2021;96:e412–e422; 6. Kapoor M et al. J Peripher Nerv Syst 2019;24(4):314–319. 7. Maia LF et al. Amyloid 2020;27(2):97–102; 8. Algorithm Photometry Photometry Systems and the state of the state of
- 21 Alnylam Pharmaceuticals. Data on file; 9. Aldinc E et al. ANA Annual Meeting 2022.

CM, cardiomyopathy; hATTR, hereditary transthyretin-mediated; NfL, neurofilament light chain; PN, polyneuropathy; PND, polyneuropathy disability.



# Conclusions

- NfL is a well-studied biomarker for neuroaxonal injury<sup>1-4</sup>
- NfL may be a useful biomarker for monitoring disease progression and response to treatment in patients with PN of hATTR amyloidosis<sup>5–8</sup>

ATTR, acquired transthyretin-mediated; hATTR, hereditary transthyretin-mediated; NfL, neurofilament light chain.

1. Thebault S et al. *Mult Scler* 2022; 28(10): 1491-1497; 2. Lewczuk P et al. *Alzheimers Res Ther* 2018;10:71; 3. Bischof A et al. *Ann Rheum Dis* 2018;77:1093–1094; 4. van Lieverloo GGA et al. *J Peripher Nerv Syst* 2019;24:187–194; 5. Ticau S et al. *Neurology* 2021;96:e412–e422; 6. Kapoor M et al. *J Peripher Nerv Syst* 2019;24:314–319;

22 7. Maia LF et al. *Amyloid* 2020;27:97–102; 8. Aldinc E et al. *ANA Annual Meeting* 2022.



## CHALLENGE ACCEPTED