

GUBox, a dual Ox1R/Ox2R peptide agonist, promotes wakefulness and reduces cataplexy in orexin/ataxin3 mice

Authors: Cathrine Kolster Fog-Tonnesen¹, Michele Cavalera¹, Line Fisker Zachariassen¹, Stanislav Nagy¹, Anthony Murray¹, Lisbeth Elster¹, Jens Christian Nielsen¹, Morten Schlein¹, Morten Lundh¹, Silas Rasmussen¹, Henrik H. Hansen¹, Niels Vrang¹, Kristoffer Rigbolt¹, Louise S. Dalbøge^{1*}

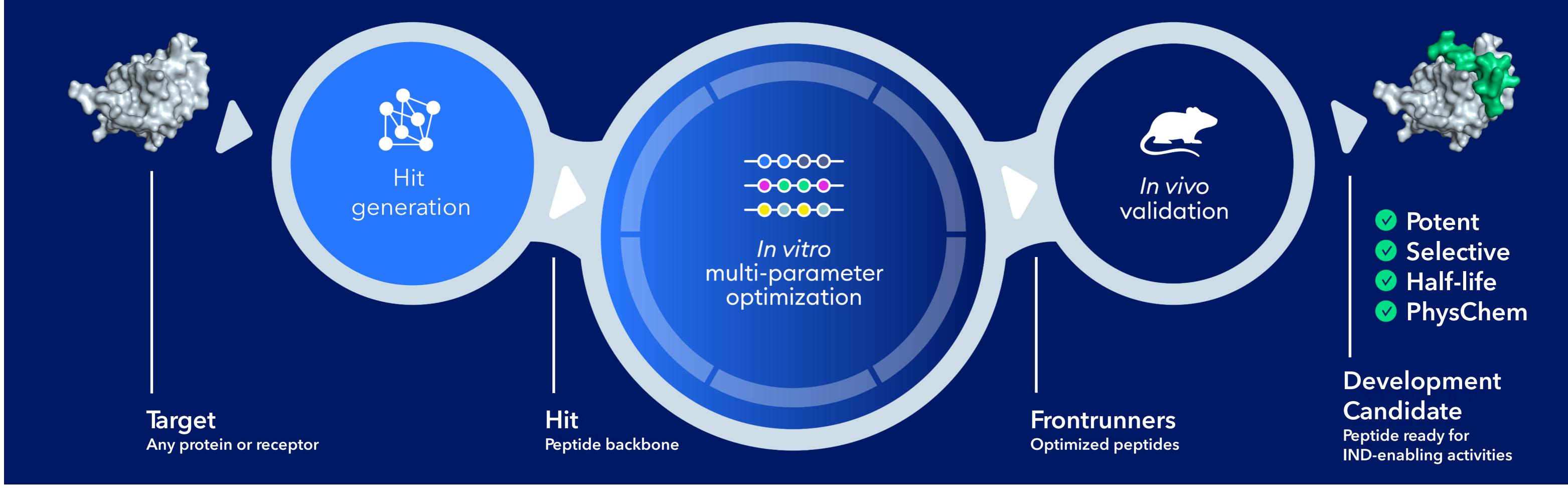
¹Gubra, Hørsholm Kongevej 11B, Hørsholm, Denmark. ***Corresponding author:** Louise S. Dalbøge, Isd@gubra.dk

1

Accelerated peptide screening and drug development with streaMLine

AI driven/supported

Expert qualified



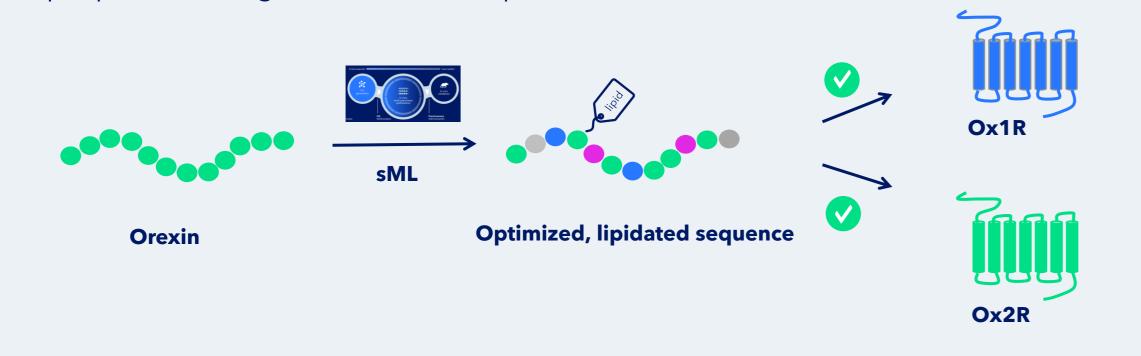
2 GUBox: Orexin-derived dual Ox1R/Ox2R peptide agonist to treat Narcolepsy Type 1



Wake-promoting and anti-cataplexy effects of GUBox

Methods

- + Utilize orexin analogues to activate central orexin signaling and compensate for the loss of endogenous orexin function in Narcolepsy Type 1 (NT1).
- + How? Engineering highly potent dual orexin receptor (OxR) 1 and OxR2 agonists from orexin backbone with optimized pharmacokinetic (PK) and physiochemical properties using our StreaMLine platform (sML).



3 In vivo validation using PURPOSE: Albased behavioral monitoring platform

Orexin/ataxin3 (at3) mouse model

+ Orexin/Ataxin3 (at3) mouse model display progressive loss of orexin neurons leading to altered sleep-wake patterns and cataplexy-like episodes.

PURPOSE platform

- + 24hrs recording of individual at3 mice.
- + ML algorithm distinguishes cataplexy

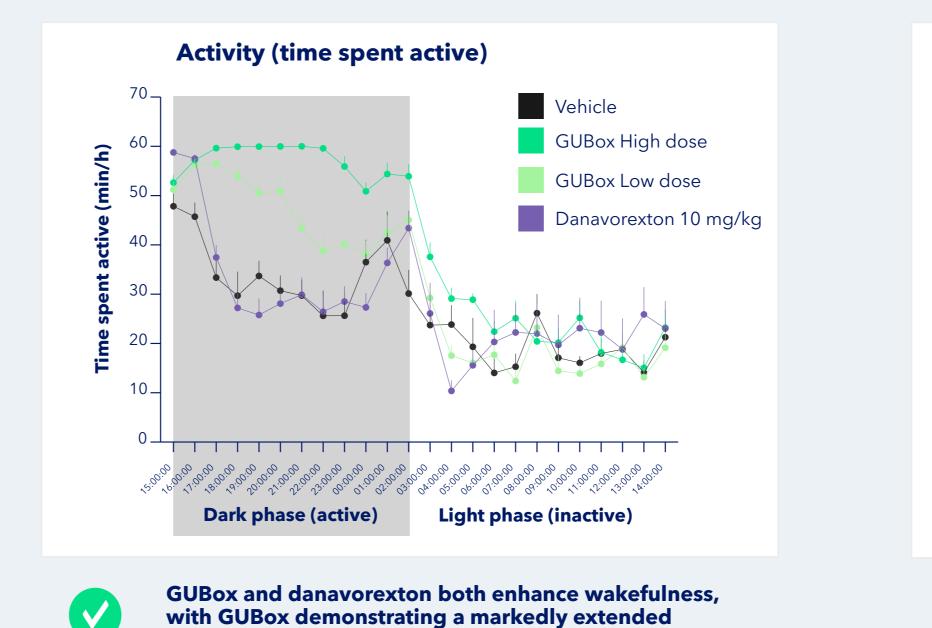


incuivus

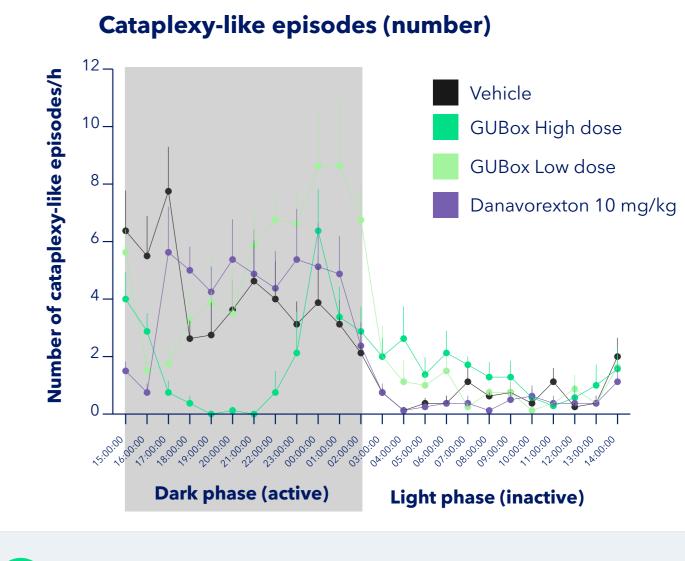
Chow-fed male at3 mice (~25 weeks of age, n=8/group) received a subcutaneous (SC) dose of GUBox, danavorexton (TAK-925, small molecule Ox2R-selective agonist), or vehicle. Automated 24 hrs real-time recording and analysis of activity/wakefulness and cataplexy-like episodes was performed using PURPOSE (starting at 15.00). Parallel plasma exposure analysis was performed in wild-type littermate controls.

Results

GUBox dose-dependently increased wakefulness time and decreased the number and duration of cataplexy-like episodes in narcoleptic mice. GUBox demonstrated prolonged benefits on both wakefulness time and cataplexy (up to 12h post-dosing) compared to danavorexton (up to 3h post-dosing). The differential efficacy profiles were supported by extended systemic exposure of GUBox compared to danavorexton (data not shown).



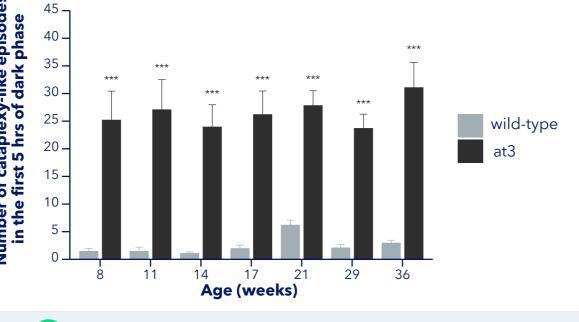
duration of action compared to danavorexton



GUBox decreased cataplexy-like episodes longer than danavorexton, demonstrating a more sustained effect

- from sleep and intermediate activity by classifying active/inactive periods.
- Unbiased sleep-wake quantification reveals a clear narcolepsy-cataplexy phenotype, characterized by severe inactivity (data not shown) and the presence of cataplexy-like episodes during the dark (active) phase across different ages in at3 mice.

Time course of cataplexy-like episodes in at3 mice



Robust quantification of cataplexy in at3 mice

Conclusion

GUBox is a highly potent dual OxR1/OxR2 peptide agonist developed via Gubra's sML platform. We report superior wake-promoting and anti-cataplexy effects of GUBox, as compared to danavorexton, in narcoleptic mice. Collectively, our findings support the therapeutic potential of GUBox for the treatment of NT1.

GUBox:

Highly potent dual OxR1/OxR2 peptide agonist
Excellent physical and chemical stability
PK supports once-daily SC dosing in humans
Improves narcolepsy-like behavioural phenotypes in at3 mice



Cathrine K. Fog-Tonnesen, PhD Project Director, Discovery Project Management, Gubra A/S

cft@gubra.dk

Scan the QR code and find out more about Drug Discovery at Gubra A/S

