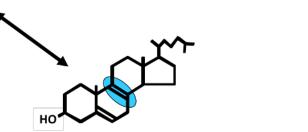
### Therapy for SLOS

- SLOS
  - Inborn error of cholesterol synthesis
    - Impaired 7-dehydrocholesterol reductase activity
      - Increased dehydrocholesterol
      - Decreased cholesterol
      - 7DHC metabolites DHCEO 27OH-7DHC

NADPH NADPH NADP Ho DHCR7

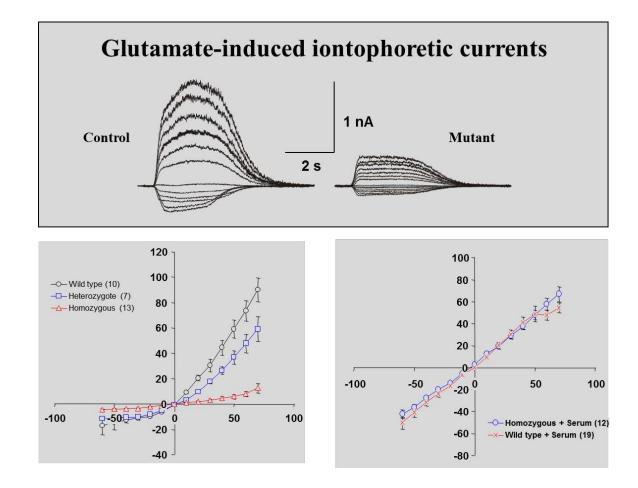
7-Dehydrocholesterol Cholesterol

- Malformation syndrome
  - Developmental defects
- Inborn error of metabolism
  - Functional defects



8-Dehydrocholesterol

To what extent are the mental and behavioral problems in SLOS due to fixed developmental abnormalities, versus to what extent are they due to functional problems secondary to the abnormal sterol composition in the CNS?



### Therapeutic Approaches for SLOS

- Increase cholesterol
- Decrease 7-dehydrocholesterol
- Decrease 7-dehydrocholesterol metabolites

### Therapeutic Approaches for SLOS

- Peripheral (Body) Therapy
  - Improved serum biochemistry
  - Improved nutritional status
  - Improved growth
- Central (Brain) Therapy
  - Cholesterol does not cross the blood-brain barrier
  - Anecdotal reports of improvement in behavior
    - Decreased irritability and Self Injurious Behavior
    - Decreased hyperactivity
    - Decreased tactile defensiveness
- Autistic Behavior

(ADI-R Criteria and Initiation of Cholesterol Therapy)

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< 4 yo 2/9 22%
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> 4 yo 7/8 88%

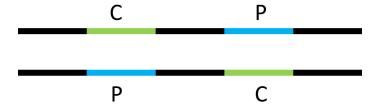


# Analysis of Short-Term Behavioral Effects of Dietary Cholesterol Supplementation in Smith—Lemli—Opitz Syndrome

Elaine Tierney, 1,2 Sandra K. Conley, Halima Goodwin, and Forbes D. Porter \*\*

Received 15 July 2009; Accepted 12 September 2009

• Double-blind, placebo-controlled, cross-over trial



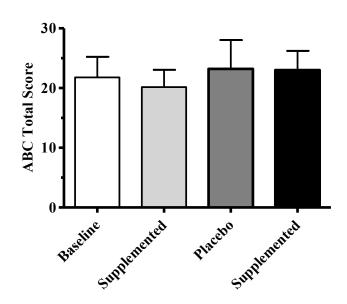
- 10 Participants completed both phases
- No Participants discontinued the placebo phase
- Aberrant Behavior Checklist (ABC)
  - Hyperactivity score

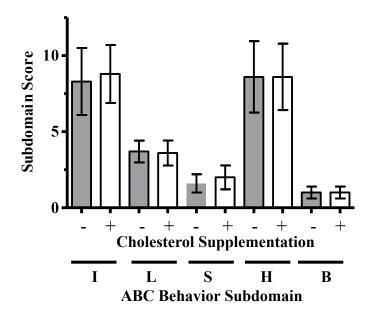
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### Dietary Cholesterol Supplementation



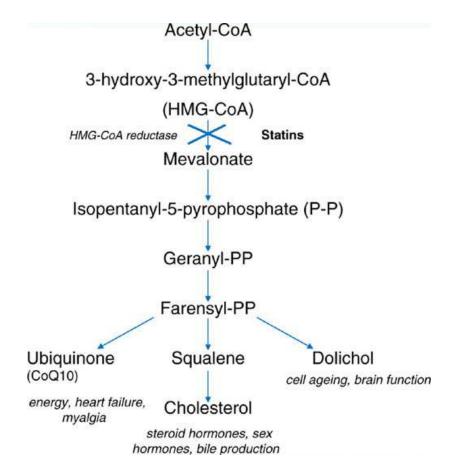


### Dietary Cholesterol Supplementation

- Limitations
  - Under powered Study needs to be larger
  - Short-term Study needs to be longer

• No controlled studies showing a benefit of dietary cholesterol supplementation on either behavior or learning

- HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor
  - Rational: Decrease 7DHC levels



Genetics **ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE** in Medicine American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics A placebo-controlled trial of simvastatin therapy in **Smith-Lemli-Opitz syndrome** Christopher A. Wassif, PhD1, Lisa Kratz, PhD2, Susan E. Sparks, MD1,3, Courtney Wheeler, MS4, Simona Bianconi, MD1, Andrea Gropman, MD5, Karim A. Calis, PharmD, MPH6, Richard I. Kelley, MD, PhD<sup>7</sup>, Elaine Tierney, MD<sup>4</sup> and Forbes D. Porter, MD, PhD<sup>1</sup> 23 Enrolled • 22 patients entered trial S14 Excluded Severity Score > 30 22 Entered the trial • 18 subjects completed the study Cross-over design 2 Subjects withdrawn Phase I S04 Elevated CPK 10 Simvastatin 12 Placebo (12 months) • 12-month phases S18 Noncompliance 2-month washout 2 month washout 2 Subjects withdrawn Phase II S07 Noncompliance 10 Placebo 10 Simvastatin (12 months) S22 Noncompliance Placebo Placebo Simvastatin Simvastatin 18 Subjects completed 12 months 2 months 12 months the study

#### Inclusion/Exclusion

• Age: 4-18 yrs

• SLOS Severity Score ≤ 30

• Fibroblast residual cholesterol synthesis ≥ 10%

#### **Demographics**

Mean 8.2 yrs Range 4.0-17.5 yrs

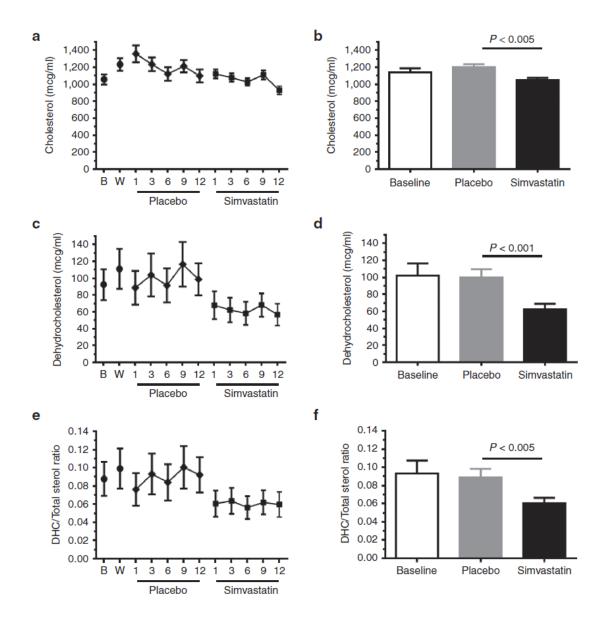
• Mean 13.2 Range 6-28

• Mean 37% Range 11-76%

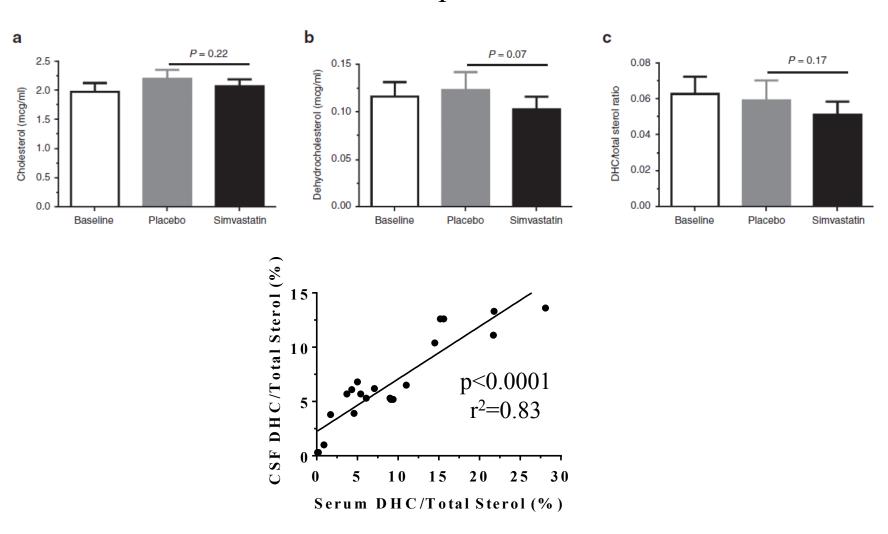
Male/Female 13/9

- Safety and Adverse Events
  - No drug related serious adverse events during the study\*
  - No significant changes in serum transaminase or creatine phosphokinase levels
  - Anthropomorphic measures
    - No significant changes in growth parameters
  - Behavioral changes
    - Increased aggression and self-injurious behavior in one subject during the open-label extension
  - \*One subject developed cataracts after the study while on offlabel simvastatin

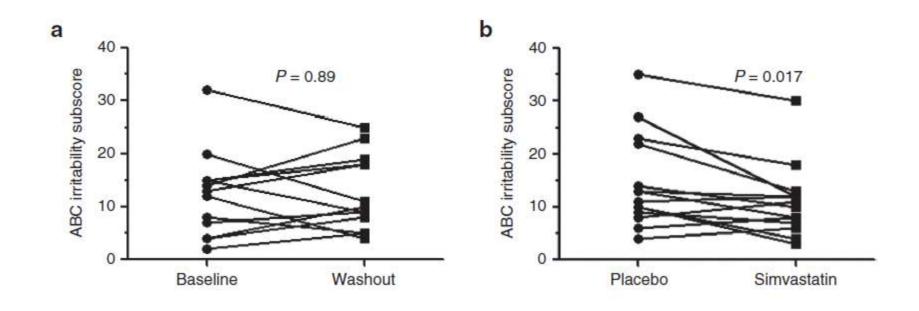
Sterol Biochemistry Serum



#### Sterol Biochemistry Cerebral Spinal Fluid



Clinical Outcome Measures
Aberrant Behavior Checklist-Irritability Subscore
(14 Subjects)



- First controlled study to demonstrate improved behavior in SLOS subjects in response to a therapeutic intervention
- Statistical significance versus clinical significance
- Limited ability to push the simvastatin dose
- Proof-of-concept
  - Increased *DHCR7* expression
  - Proteostasis modulators

# Therapy for SLOS

- Basic Science
  - Model systems
  - High-throughput drug screens
  - Biomarker identification and characterization
- Clinical research
  - Natural history
    - Detailed phenotyping
    - Biomaterial collection
  - Therapeutic trials
- Family and patient support

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- Clinical Staff of the NIH Clinical Center
- All our collaborators Nationally and Internationally
- All the SLOS families and patient support.