



# LNP: Delivering mRNA Therapeutics to the Clinic

Live Webinar | September 12, 2017 @1pm ET / 10am PT

NASDAQ: ABUS

[www.arbutusbio.com](http://www.arbutusbio.com)

# Today's Speakers

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**Adam Cutler**

Vice President,  
Corporate Affairs

**MODERATOR**



**Dr. Adam Judge**

Nucleic Acid-Based Drug Expert

- +15 years experience in discovery and development of nucleic acid-based drugs with Arbutus/Tekmira/Protiva
- Author of +35 peer-reviewed publications and +8500 journal citations
- PhD in Cellular Immunology from The University of Birmingham Medical School, UK.



**Dr. James Heyes**

Vice President, Drug Delivery

- +16 years experience as a lipid chemist discovering and developing technologies like Arbutus Biopharma's novel LNP platform
- PhD in Medicinal and Pharmaceutical Chemistry from The University of London, UK.



**Dr. Peter Lutwyche**

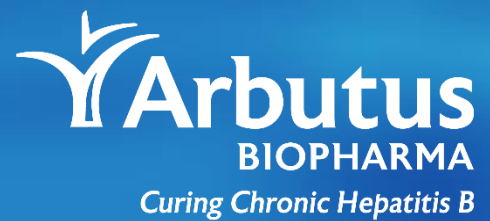
Chief Technical Operations Officer

- +20 years of experience in the pharmaceutical development of nucleic acid-containing LNP products
- Formerly, Director of Pharmaceutical Development for Arbutus and QLT Inc.
- PhD in Chemistry from The University of British Columbia, Canada.

# Agenda

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1. mRNA therapeutics & current challenges of delivery
2. Arbutus' LNP drug delivery technology
3. Recent technological advancements in the LNP platform
4. LNP technology enables mRNA product development
5. Intellectual property & pharmaceutical development for clinical use of mRNA therapeutics
6. Q&A



# mRNA Therapeutics

# mRNA: An Exciting New Therapeutic Modality

## Exploiting a fundamental mechanism in biology

- Template for any natural or engineered protein
- High level protein production within target tissues
  - Secreted, intracellular or membrane-bound

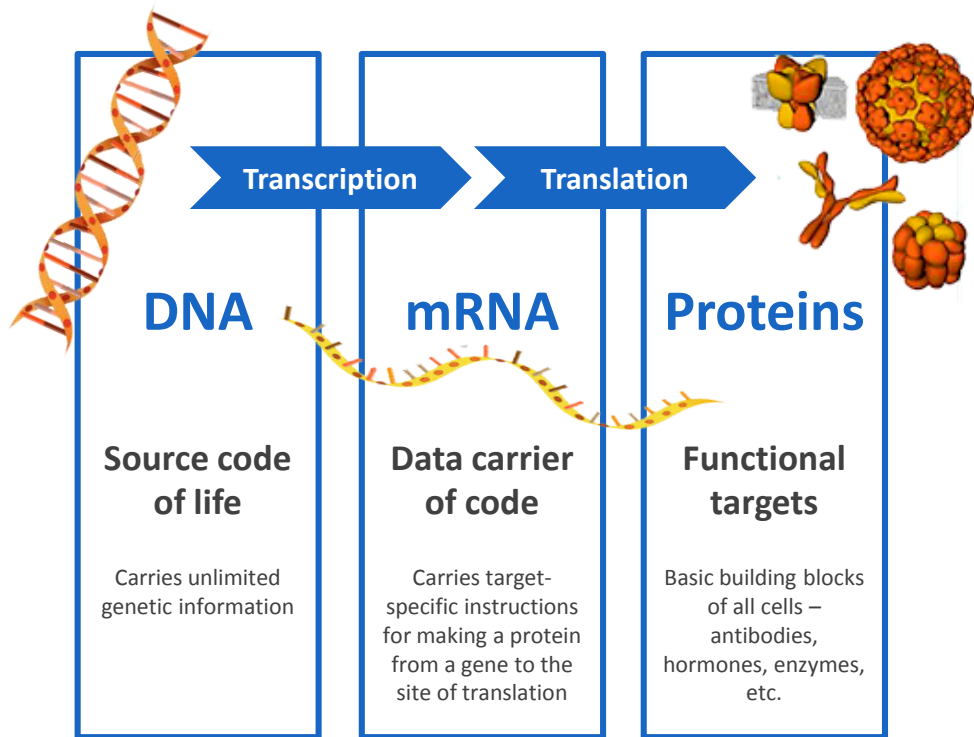


Table: Wide array of therapeutic applications

mRNA encoded proteins	Example
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Intracellular proteins</li><li>• Secreted therapeutic proteins</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rare genetic disease e.g. OTC Deficiency</li><li>• Antibodies for cancer immunotherapy</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gene editing enzymes (e.g CRISPR, ZFN, meganucleases)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gene disruption for TTR amyloidosis</li><li>• Gene correction for inborn errors of metabolism</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pathogen-derived antigens</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vaccines for emerging viruses</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tumor-derived antigens</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Personalized cancer vaccines</li></ul>

Effective delivery systems will be transformative for mRNA-based drug development



# mRNA Therapeutics: The Delivery Challenge

- mRNA requires intracellular delivery
- Prone to rapid degradation and excretion
- Very large macromolecule does not pass freely through cell membranes

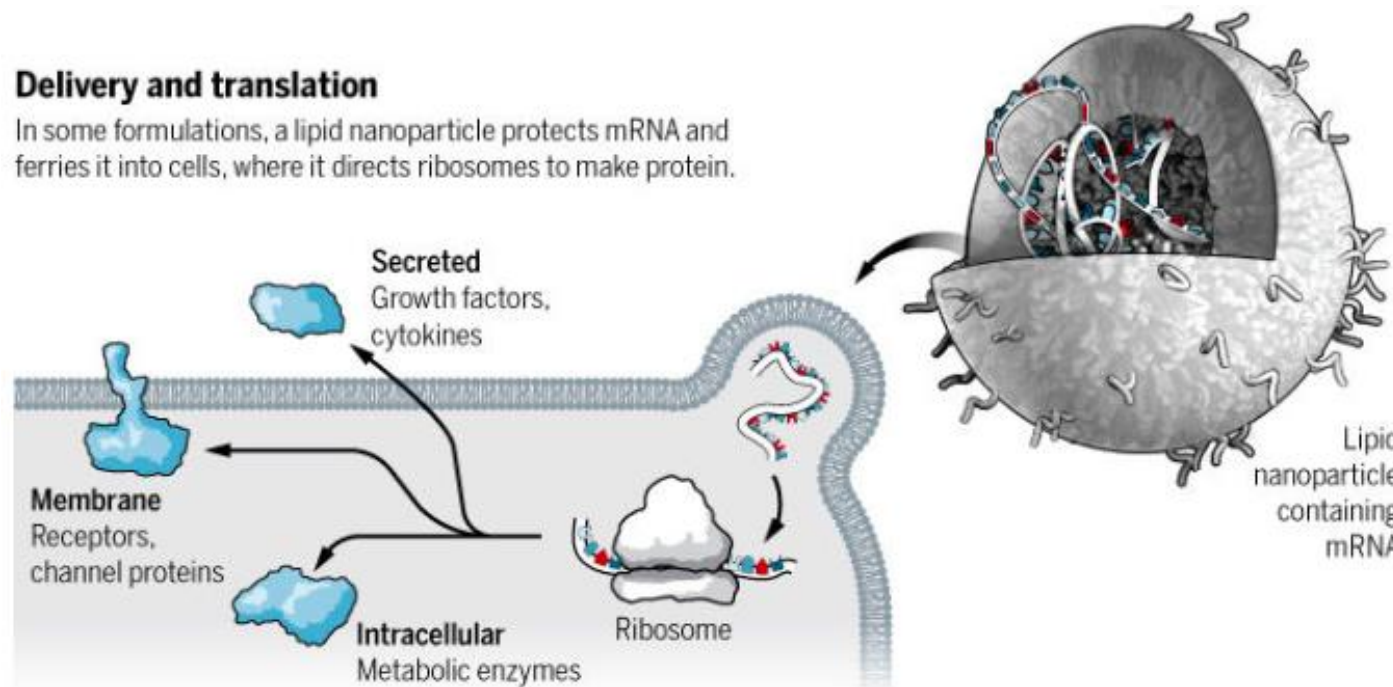
## mRNA delivery has distinct challenges

- Oligonucleotide chemistries that confer drug-like properties are not tolerated
- Ligand-conjugate delivery platforms (e.g. GalNAc-oligonucleotides) are not suitable

Pharmaceutical development of mRNA will require specialised delivery systems for most applications

### Delivery and translation

In some formulations, a lipid nanoparticle protects mRNA and ferries it into cells, where it directs ribosomes to make protein.



Adapted from Science: doi:10.1126/science.aal0686

# mRNA Therapeutics: The Immunology Challenge

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- mRNA can activate inflammatory responses including cytokine and Interferon release
- Poses unique challenges to mRNA-based drug safety and efficacy in the clinic
- Exacerbated by mRNA quality and inappropriate delivery systems
  - Chemical modification of mRNA is not a universal solution

Overcoming this challenge requires a multi-factorial approach:

mRNA  
Sequence  
Design

mRNA  
Purification  
& Quality Control

Delivery Vehicle  
Design & Control of  
Final Drug Product

Testing in Appropriate  
Human & Animal  
Models that Reflect  
Clinical Risk

# Recent Progress in mRNA Drug Development

## Advances towards and into the clinic

- Potent mRNA vaccine platforms have advanced into the clinic
  - Development speed ideal for emerging threats
  - Personalised cancer vaccines
- Successful mRNA delivery in large animal models
  - Therapeutic protein expression at clinically feasible dose
- First demonstrations of in vivo gene editing and repair

Many of these advancements are enabled by Arbutus' LNP delivery platform

### Systemic delivery of factor IX messenger RNA for protein replacement therapy

Suvasini Ramaswamy<sup>a</sup>, Nina Tonnu<sup>a</sup>, Kiyoshi Tachikawa<sup>b</sup>, Pattaranee Limphong<sup>b</sup>, Jerel B. Vega<sup>b</sup>, Priya P. Karmali<sup>b</sup>, Pad Chivukula<sup>a</sup>, and Inder M. Verma<sup>a,b,1</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Laboratory of Genetics, Salk Institute for Biological Studies, La Jolla, CA 92037; and <sup>b</sup>Arcturus Therapeutics, San Diego, CA 92121

### Molecular Therapy

Original Article



### Preclinical and Clinical Demonstration of Immunogenicity by mRNA Vaccines against H10N8 and H7N9 Influenza Viruses

Kapil Bahl,<sup>1</sup> Joe J. Senn,<sup>2</sup> Olga Yuzhakov,<sup>1</sup> Alex Bulychev,<sup>2</sup> Luis A. Brito,<sup>2</sup> Kimberly J. Hassett,<sup>1</sup> Michael E. Mike Smith,<sup>2</sup> Örn Almarsson,<sup>2</sup> James Thompson,<sup>2</sup> Amílcar (Mick) Ribeiro,<sup>1</sup> Mike Watson,<sup>1</sup> Tal Zaks,<sup>2</sup> and Giuseppe Ciaramella<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Valera, A Moderna Venture, 500 Technology Square, Cambridge, MA 02139, USA; <sup>2</sup>Moderna Therapeutics, 200 Technology Square, Cambridge, MA 021

### Sequence-engineered mRNA Without Chemical Nucleoside Modifications Enables an Effective Protein Therapy in Large Animals

Andreas Thess<sup>1</sup>, Stefanie Grund<sup>1</sup>, Barbara L. Mui<sup>2</sup>, Michael J. Hope<sup>2</sup>, Patrick Baumhof<sup>1</sup>, Mariola Fotin-Mleczek<sup>1</sup> and Thomas Schlake<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>CureVac GmbH, Tübingen, Germany; <sup>2</sup>Arcturus Therapeutics, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

### Modified mRNA Vaccines Protect against Zika Virus Infection

Justin M. Richner,<sup>1,9</sup> Sunny Himansu,<sup>2,9</sup> Kimberly A. Dowd,<sup>3</sup> Scott L. Butler,<sup>2</sup> Vanessa Salazar,<sup>1</sup> Julie M. Fox,<sup>1</sup> Justin G. Julander,<sup>4</sup> William W. Tang,<sup>5</sup> Sujun Shrestha,<sup>5</sup> Theodore C. Pierson,<sup>3</sup> Giuseppe Ciaramella,<sup>2,6</sup> and Michael S. Diamond<sup>1,6,7,8,10,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Medicine, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO 63110, USA

<sup>2</sup>Valera LLC, a Moderna Venture, 500 Technology Square, Cambridge, MA, 02139, USA

<sup>3</sup>Viral Pathogenesis Section, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD 20892 USA

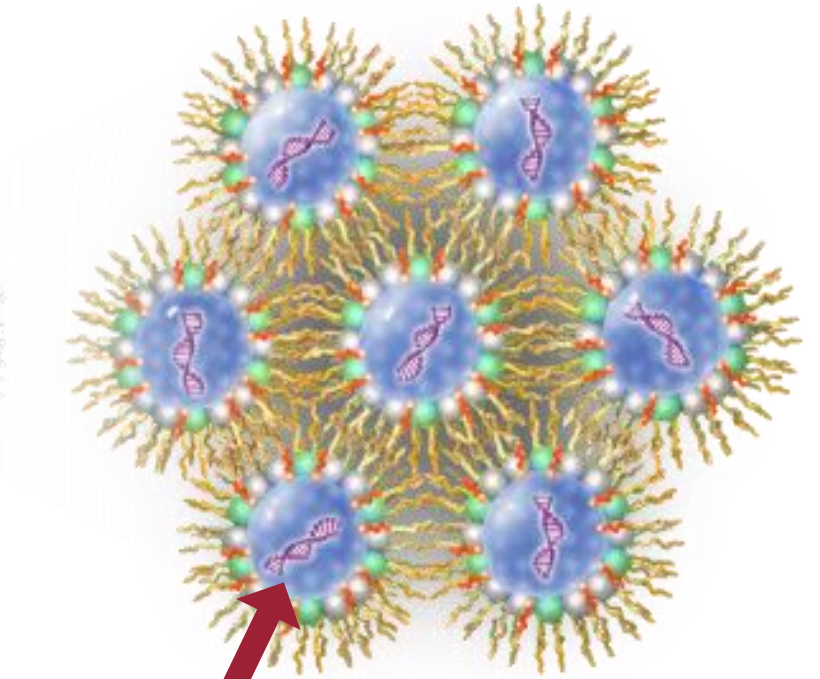
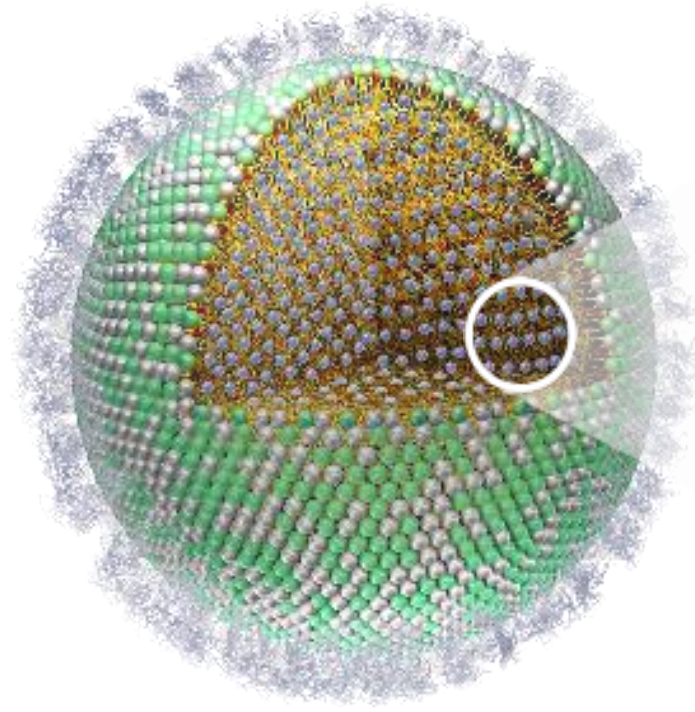


# Lipid Nanoparticle (LNP) Technology

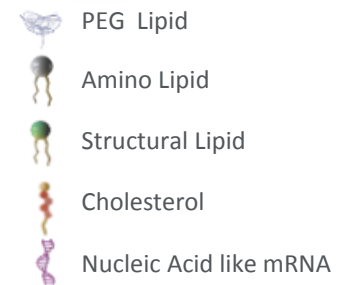
# Arbutus is the Leader in LNP Technology

## LNP technology is Clinically Validated and Ideal for mRNA

- LNP are highly tuned mixtures of lipids.
- Protect nucleic acids in the blood, and provide access to the target cells.
- Validated in multiple clinical trials (over 400 patients).
- Arbutus has considerable expertise advancing LNP programs rapidly into the clinic.

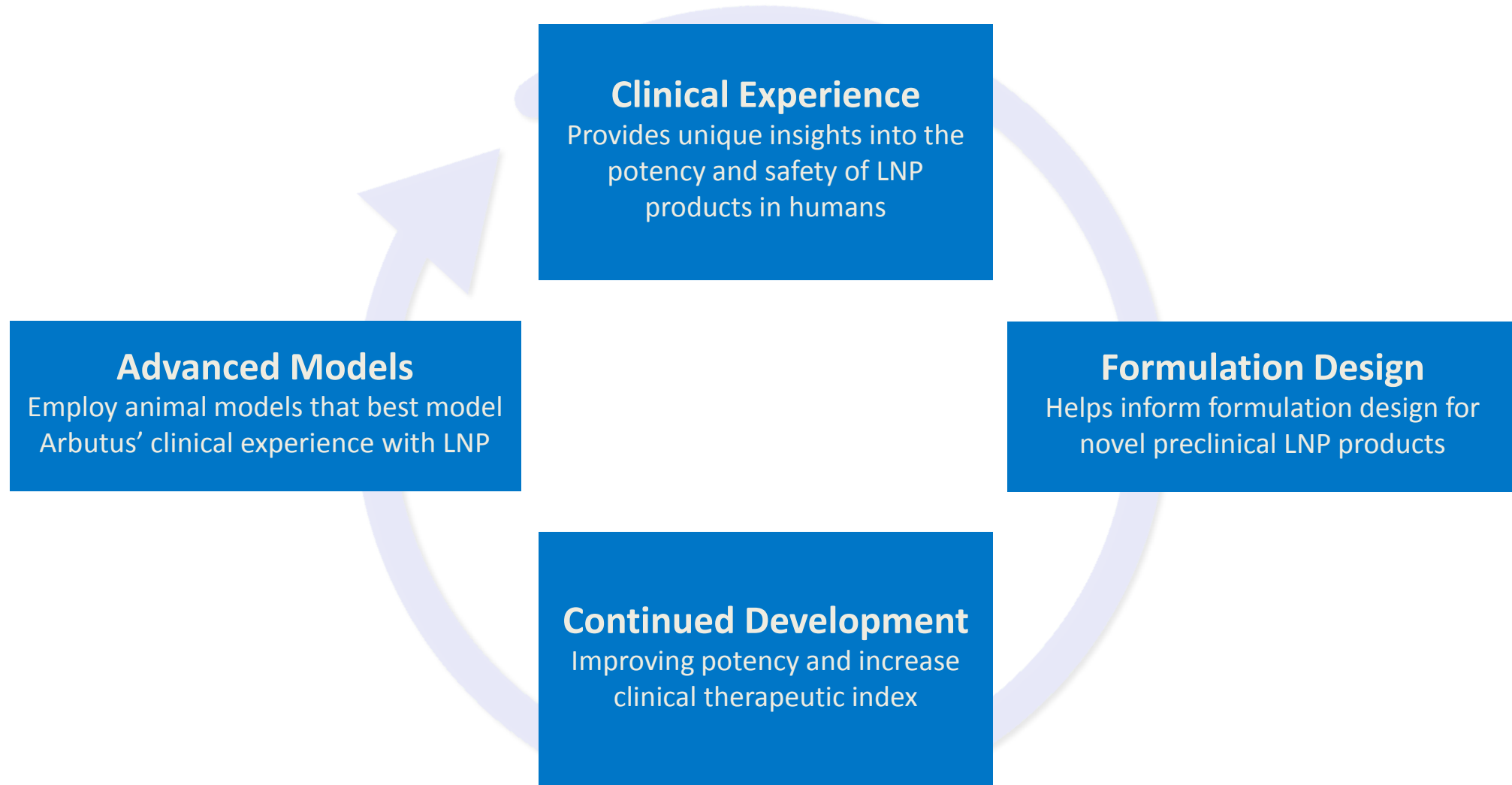


**LNP are designed to deliver therapies based on RNAi, mRNA, and gene editing constructs**

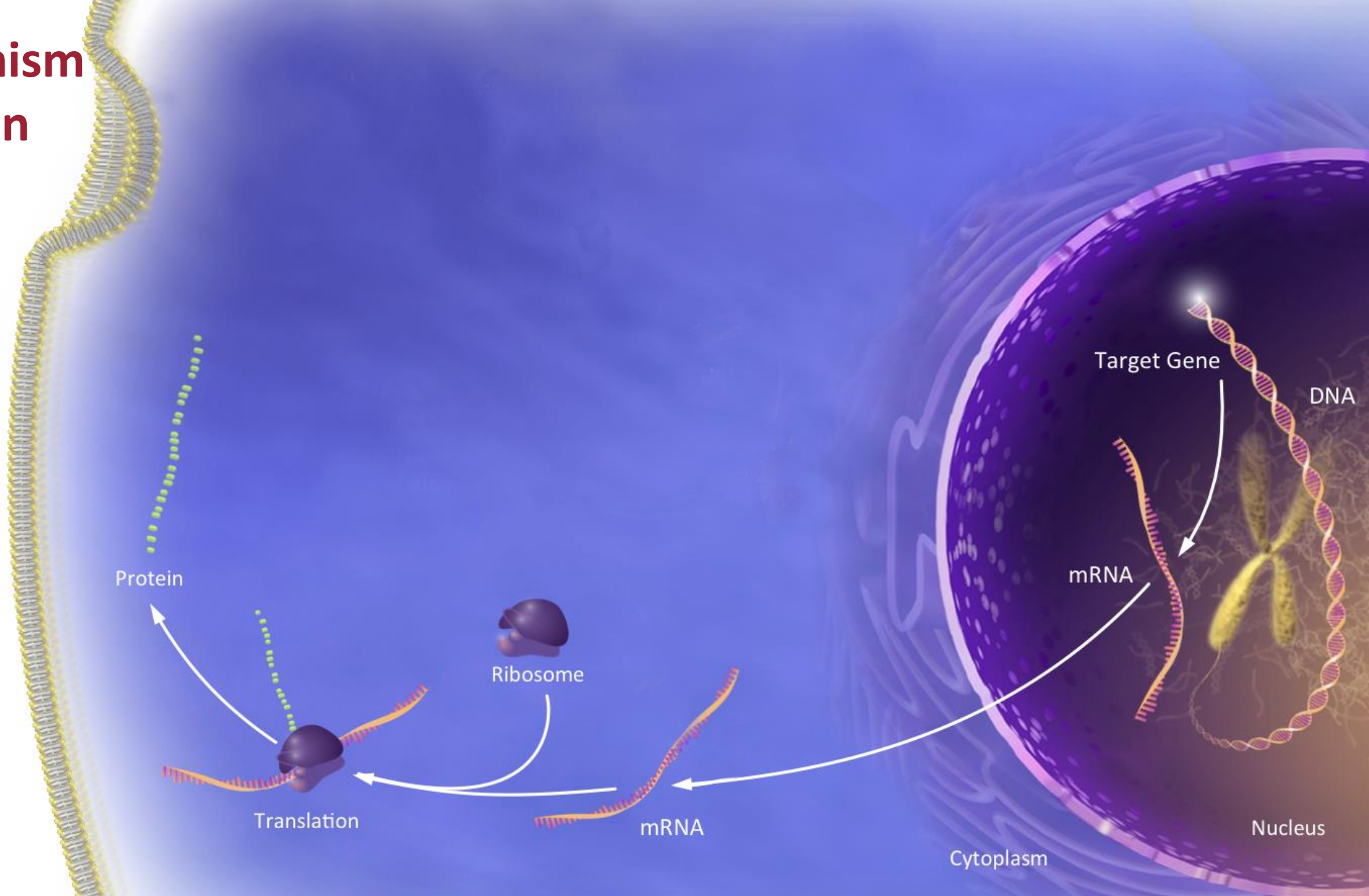


# Clinical Experience Drives LNP Platform Development

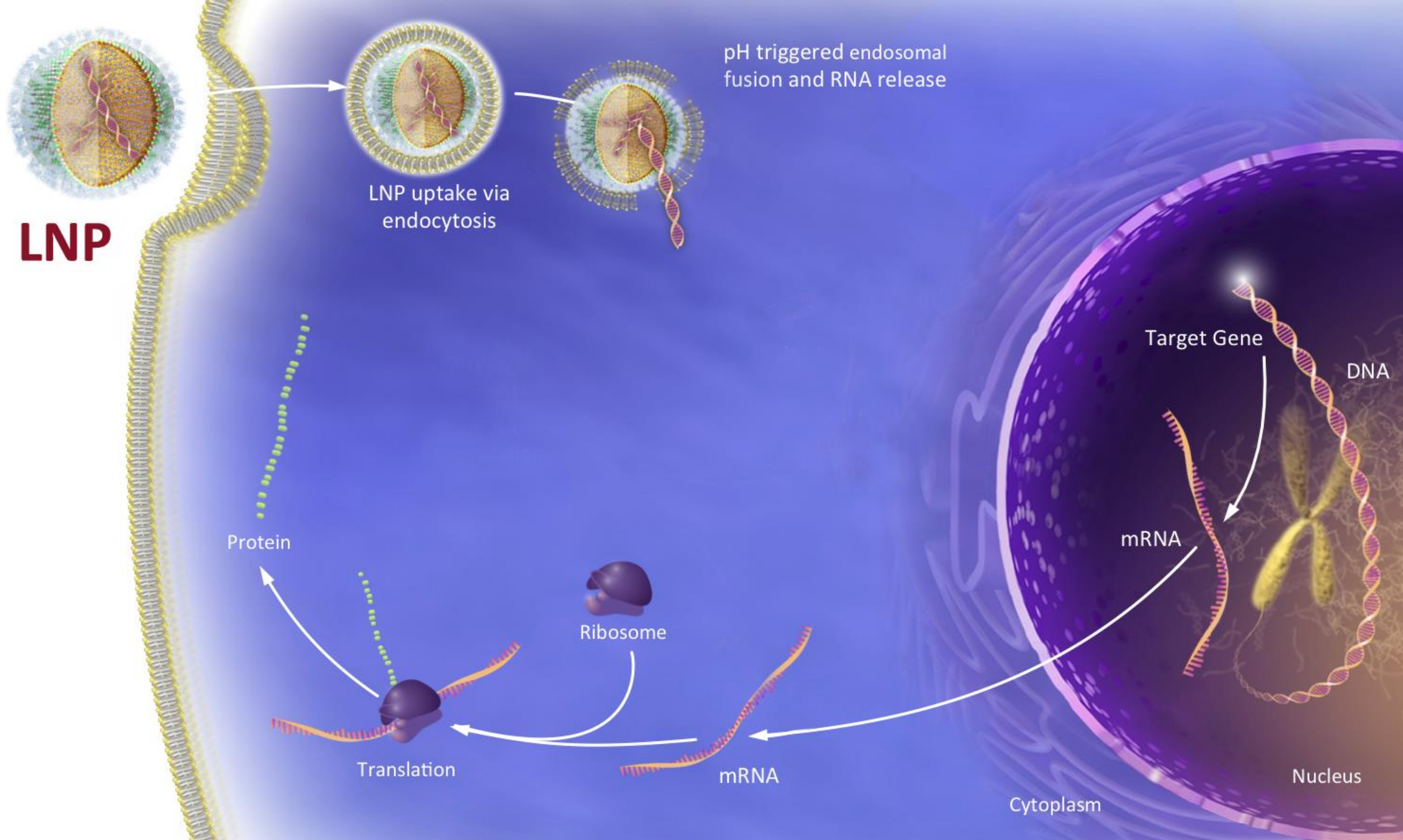
## Arbutus's next generation LNP formulations



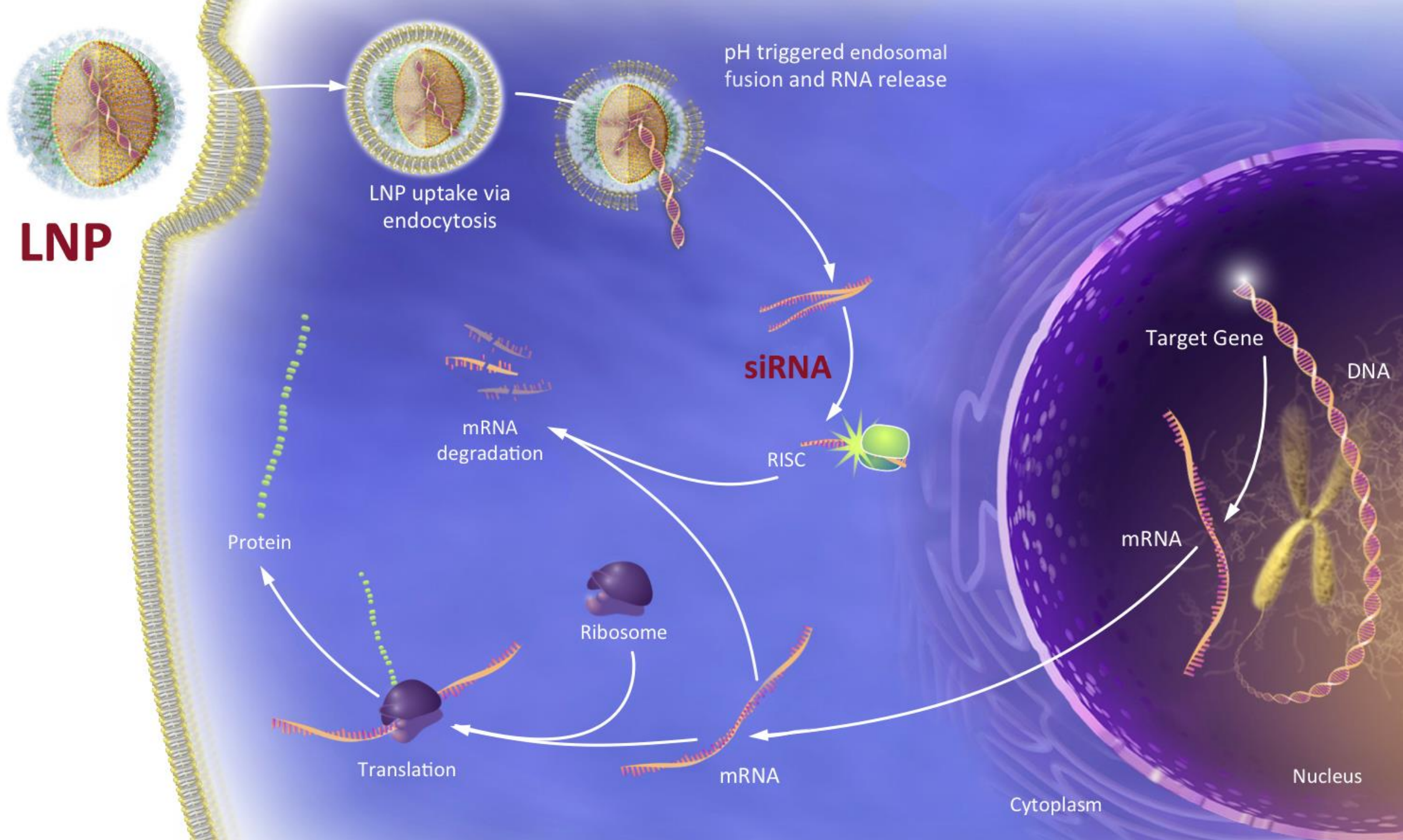
# Mechanism of Action



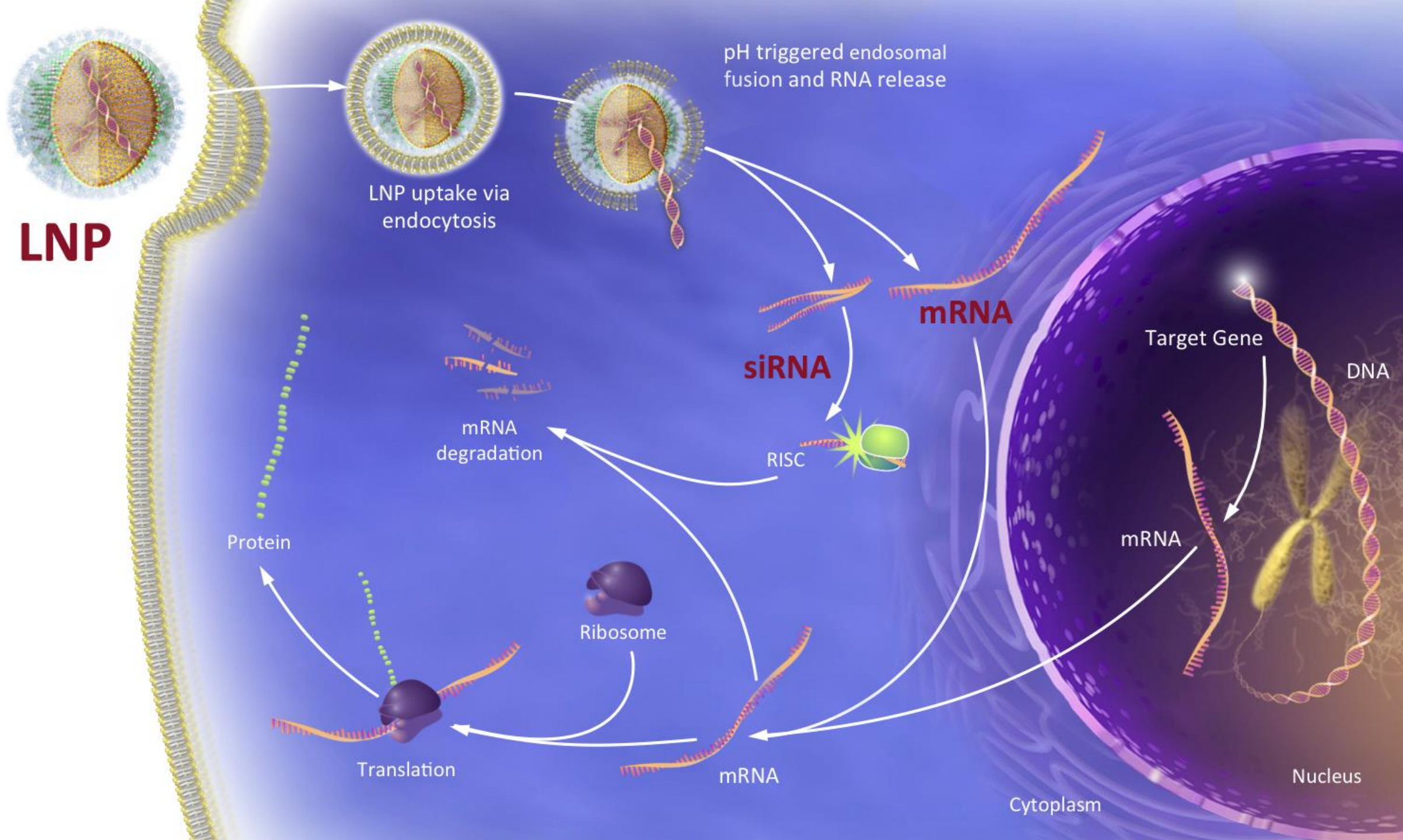






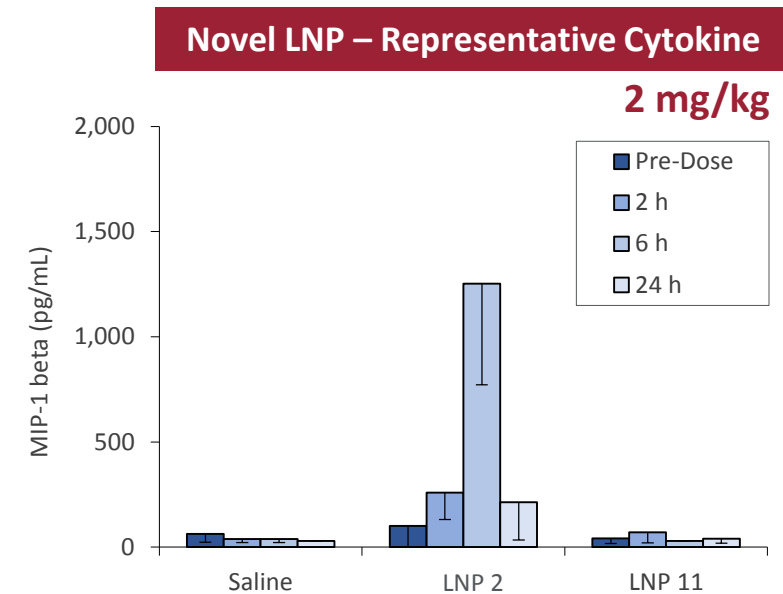
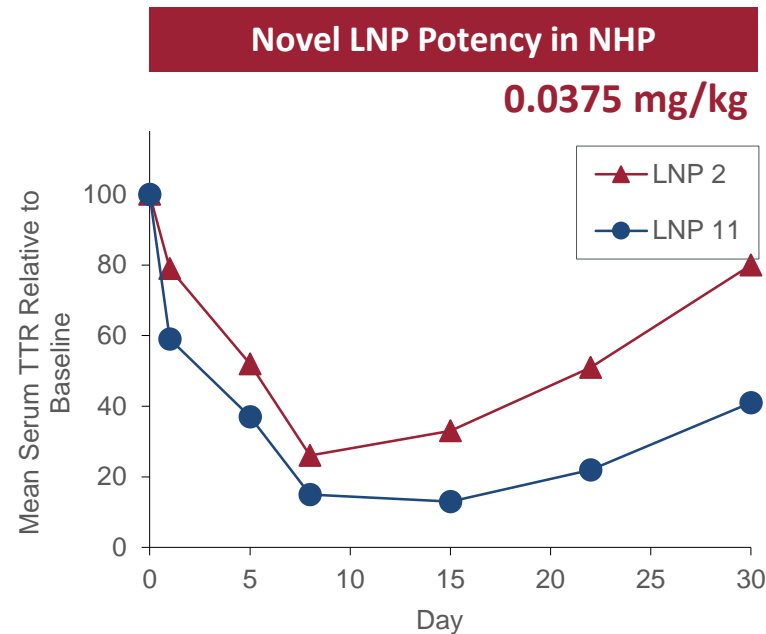
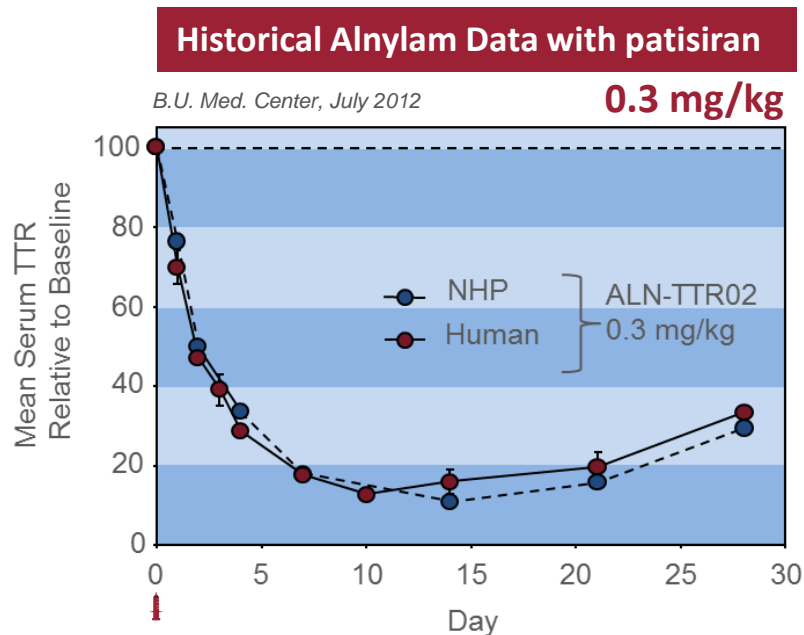




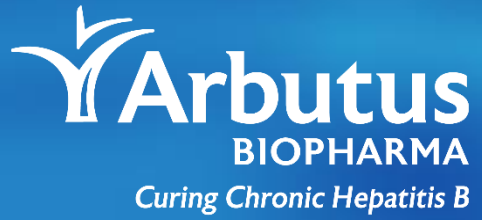


# Recent Advances in the Arbutus LNP Platform

## Improved Therapeutic Index in Non-Human Primates



- LNP screening conducted with the same TTR siRNA sequence as patisiran
- Improved potency 8-fold over patisiran formulation
- Additionally, markedly reduced immune stimulation at higher doses predicts increased TI
- These composition improvements translate readily to mRNA payloads



# Leaders in LNP-mediated mRNA Delivery

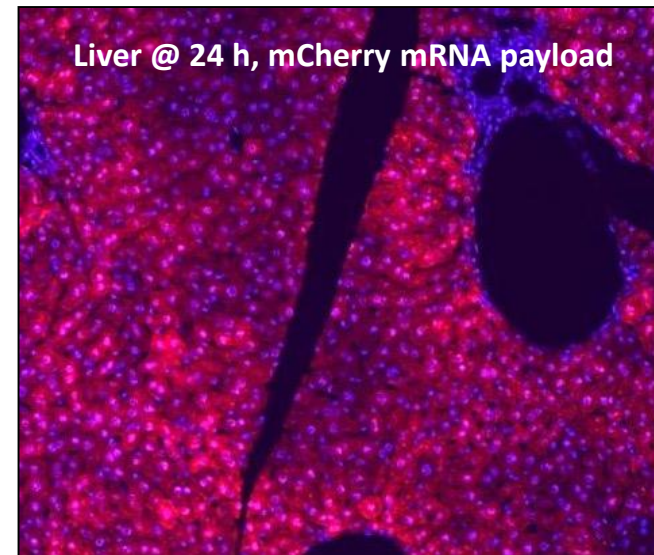
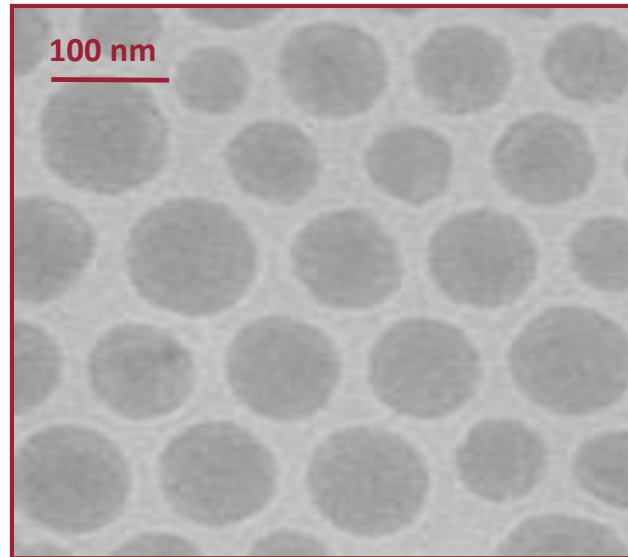


# Arbutus LNP Enable mRNA Product Development

## Integrating the Latest LNP Technology

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- Arbutus LNP technology is broadly applicable to Nucleic Acids, including mRNA
  - Very high encapsulation efficiency (>90%), high yields
- mRNA-LNP possess non-lamellar, electron dense particle morphology
- mRNA-LNP is delivered to all hepatocytes, with homogenous expression profile throughout the liver

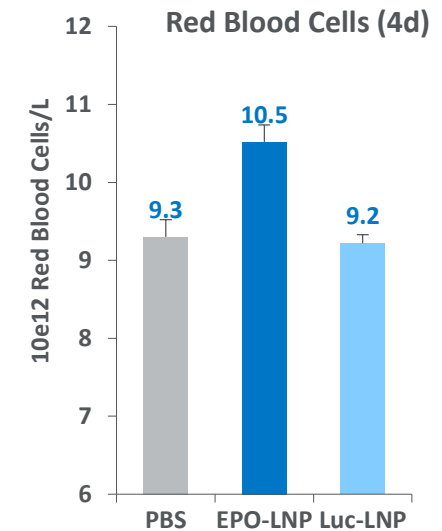
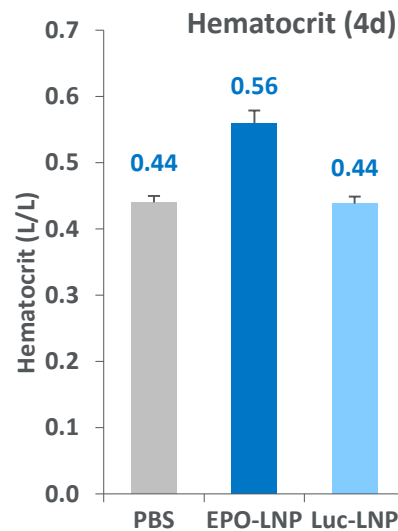
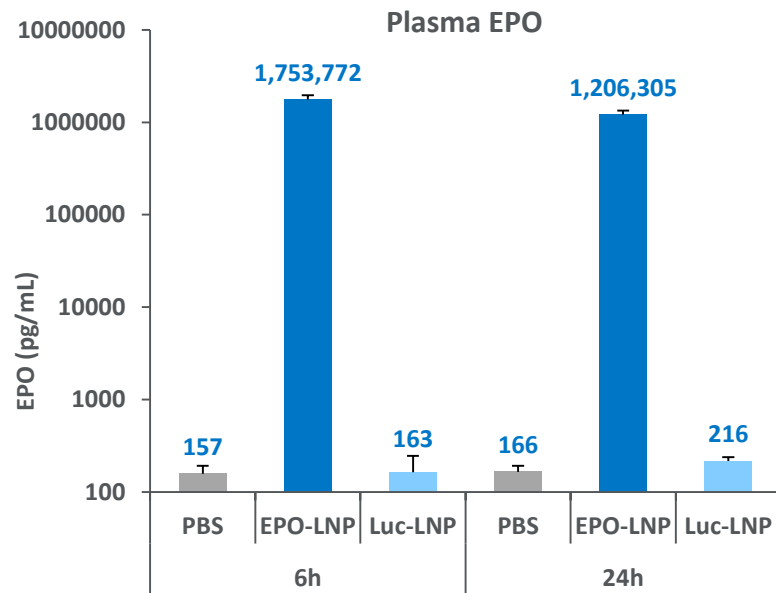




# mRNA Encoding Therapeutic Proteins

## LNP-mediated mRNA delivery yields pronounced pharmacodynamic effects

LNP Bearing mRNA Payloads Administered i.v. (0.05 mg/kg) to Balb/C Mice (n = 5)

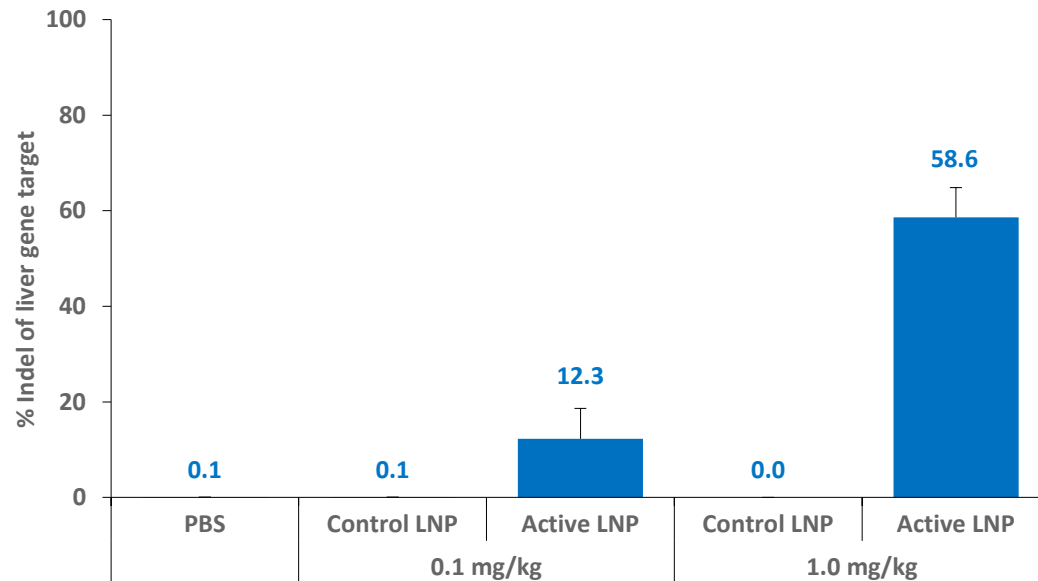


- LNP bearing an EPO mRNA payload are used to rapidly generate large quantities of protein in the blood
- Concomitant increase in RBC and hematocrit at clinically relevant doses

# mRNA Encoding Gene Editing Nucleases

## LNP delivery enables exciting new approach to human therapeutics

Deep Sequencing Analysis of DNA from livers of mice treated with LNP  
(Day 7, n=5)

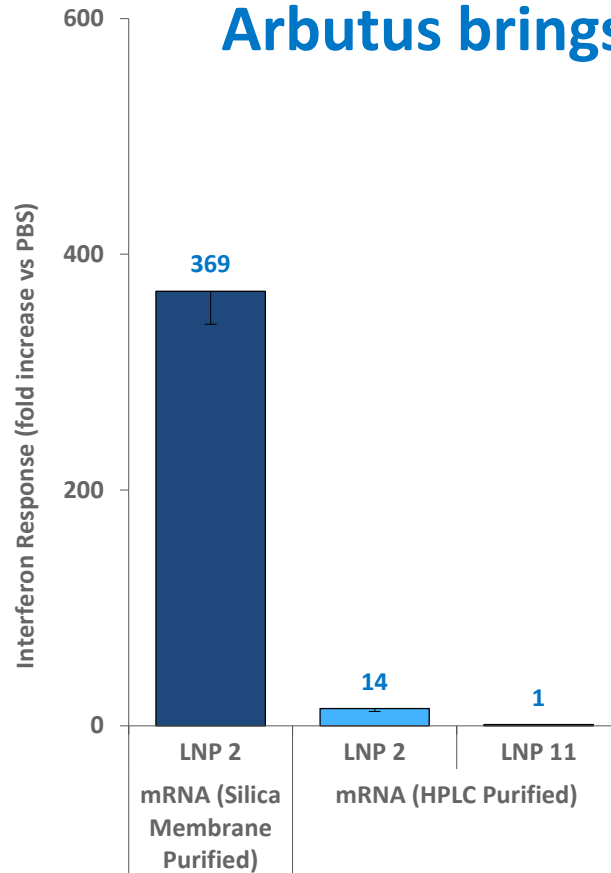


- Gene editing is a new approach enabling the deletion or repair of specific target genes
- Requires delivery of RNA encoding the gene editing nucleases
- These include CRISPR/Cas9, Meganucleases, TALENs and Zinc Finger Nucleases
- Arbutus LNP has successfully worked with all of them, observing meaningful gene editing with a single clinically relevant dose
- Effects of gene editing are very long lived, so expect a cumulative effect on repeat dosing

# Improvements in the mRNA-LNP Platform

## Optimization of mRNA payload and LNP design

Arbutus brings critical expertise in appropriate nucleic acid payload selection



- Unpurified mRNA is considerably more inflammatory than siRNA of a similar quality in LNP
- Issue not resolved by widely used mRNA chemical modification strategies
- HPLC-purification of mRNA in LNP reduces the inflammatory response significantly.
- The response is completely abrogated in combination with novel LNP formulations (e.g. LNP 11)

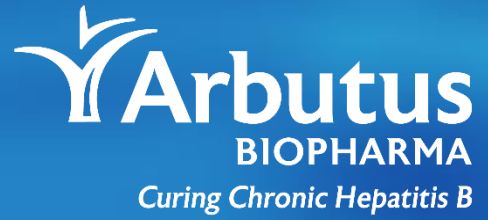
0.5 mg/kg IV mRNA-LNP administration, n=5, t=4 h

# LNP Mediated mRNA Delivery

## HIGHLIGHTS

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- Safe and successful delivery of mRNA demands appropriate attention.
- LNP technology readily adapted to use with mRNA.
- Arbutus' clinical experience provides a unique understanding of the most salient hurdles.
- mRNA payloads are more likely to provoke inflammatory responses than smaller oligonucleotides.
- Potency and tolerability of the LNP platform continue to increase.
- Demonstrated potential in a wide array of mRNA-based applications, including;
  - Therapeutic Proteins
  - Vaccines
  - Gene Editing



# Intellectual Property & Pharmaceutical Development



# Arbutus has Dominating Intellectual Property

## IP Covers All Critical Aspects of LNP

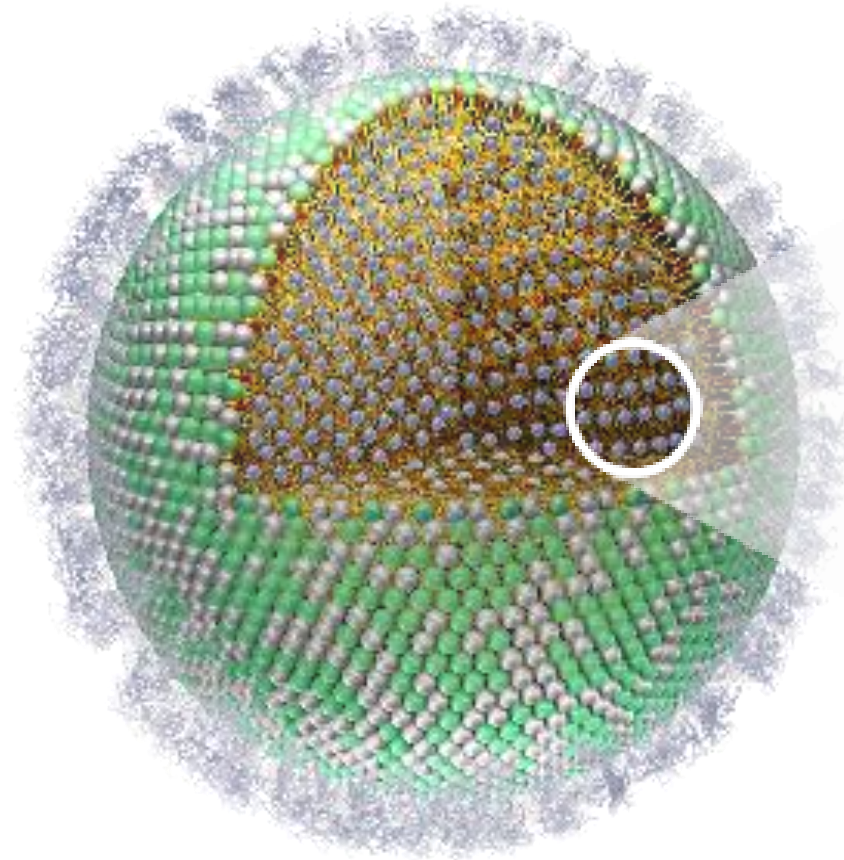
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### Structures of Individual Lipid Components

Cationic and PEG-Lipids

### Lipid Formulations

Captures all commonly used, most active ranges of lipid ratios



### LNP containing any mRNA Payload

Broad patent claims directed to any mRNA-LNP

### Particle Morphology (Internal Form/Structure)

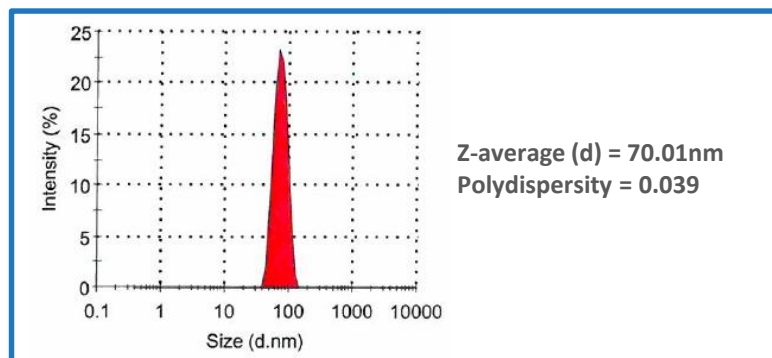
Covers all LNP with 'electron dense' core

### Manufacturing Process

Robust, scalable LNP formulating process

# Robust, Scalable LNP Manufacturing Process

- Elegant Controlled Mixing Process
- Applicable broadly for nucleic acid encapsulation
- Easily scalable and reproducible
- Efficient (high encapsulation)
- Easily Transferable
- GMP compliant
- Protected by IP



# Stable Nucleic Acid-LNP Products

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- Arbutus's LNP products are usually provided in liquid, “ready-to-use” format, Stable for 2y+ at 5 °C
- Arbutus has developed siRNA and mRNA lyophilized products stable at ambient temperatures and higher



# Arbutus LNP Pharmaceutical Development

## HIGHLIGHTS

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- Over a decade of pharmaceutical development experience for nucleic acid products
- Global regulatory experience (Europe, North America and Asia) resulting in approvals for clinical trials with multiple LNP-based products
- LNPs are a Platform Technology – “plug and play” Pharmaceutical Development for expedited development
- Manufacturing process is scaled
  - Ready for large scale GMP production and validation
  - Manufacturing process technology transferred to commercial scale CMOs
- Cost Efficiencies
  - High encapsulation manufacturing process and low cost of lipid excipients
  - High potency of LNP reduces amount of nucleic acid required
- Stable products – liquid or lyophilized

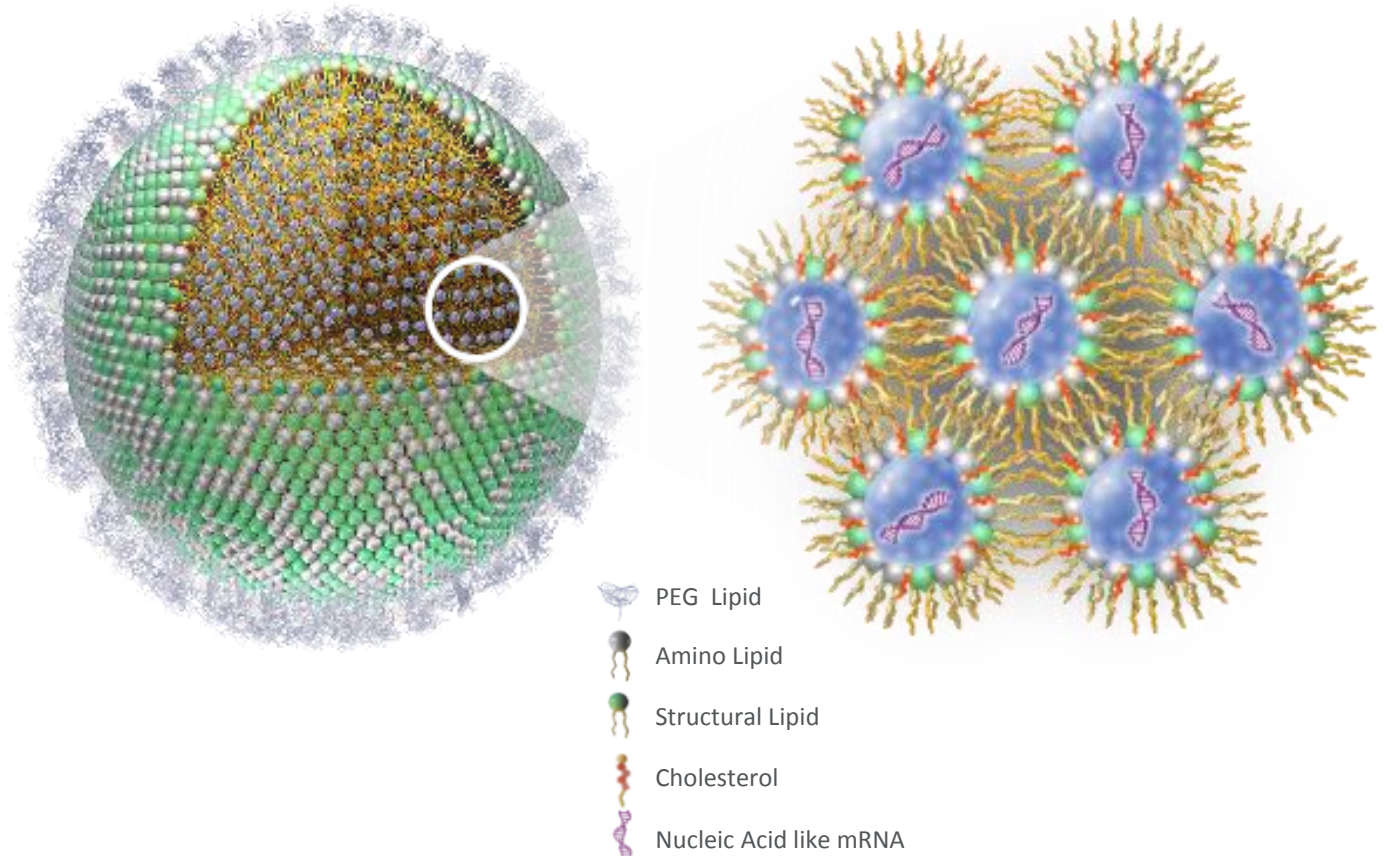


# Arbutus LNP Enables mRNA Therapeutics

## The ONLY clinic-ready LNP technology

Arbutus' clinical experience and LNP capabilities add value to mRNA partners through:

- Access to potent, clinic-ready LNP formulations designed to maximize activity and safety
- A robust, scalable GMP manufacturing process and regulatory expertise
- Rapid advancement of preclinical candidates into the clinic (~12 months to IND)
- Freedom to operate through access to dominant IP LNP portfolio







# Q&A

Further questions, email: [IR@arbutusbio.com](mailto:IR@arbutusbio.com)

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