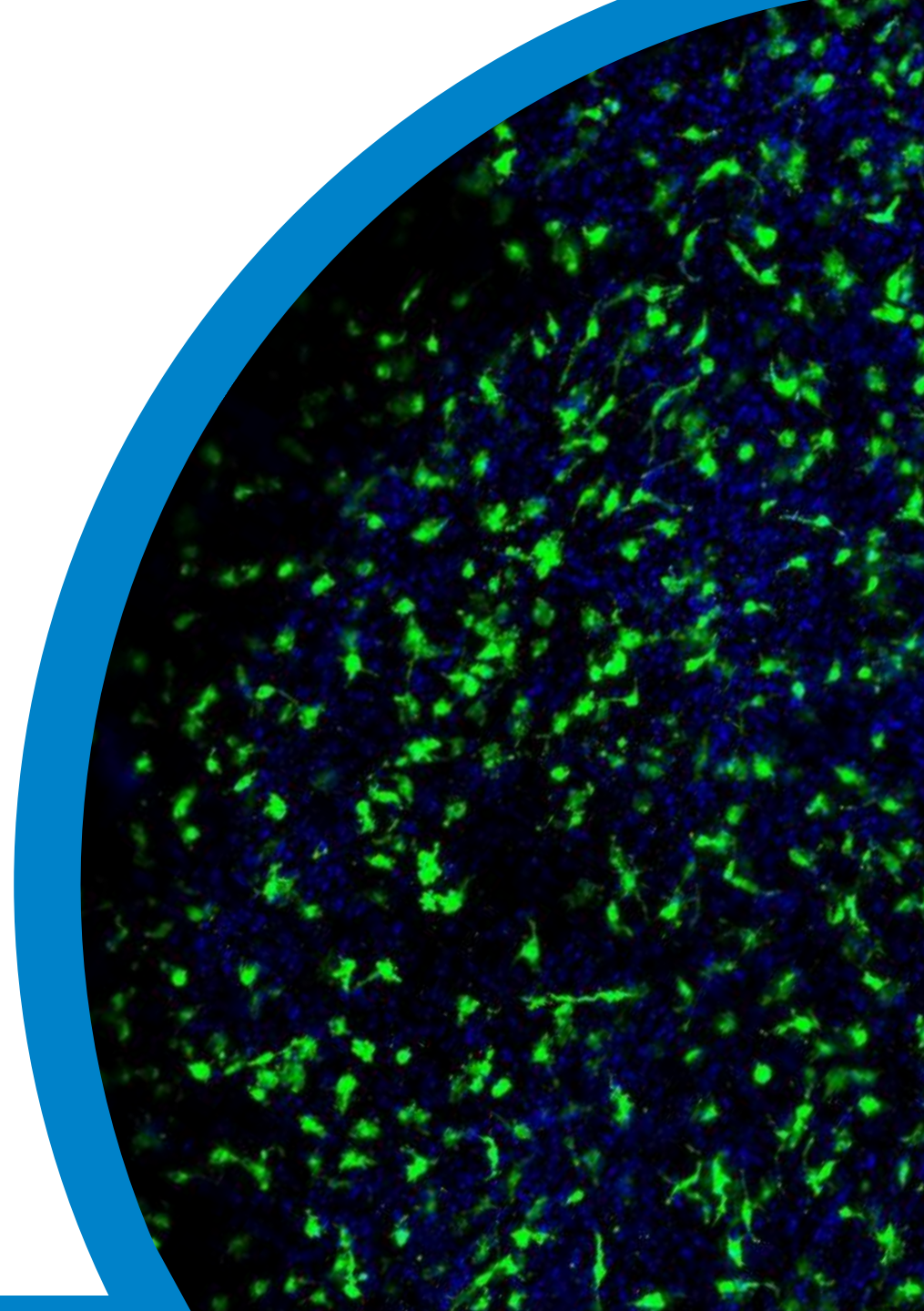




# Neuroinflammation-Focused Drug Discovery Using Human Organoids to De-risk Clinical Translation

Steven Visuri, PhD  
CEO



# Experienced Team Focused on Execution

- Raised \$6M in NIH funding to develop Stem Pharm's organoid technology
- 6 Successful startup exits
- 10+ FDA Approvals



**Steven Visuri, PhD**

CEO



**Connie Lebakken, PhD**

Co-Founder & COO



**William Murphy, PhD**

Co-Founder & CSO



**Ryan Gordon, PhD**

CBO



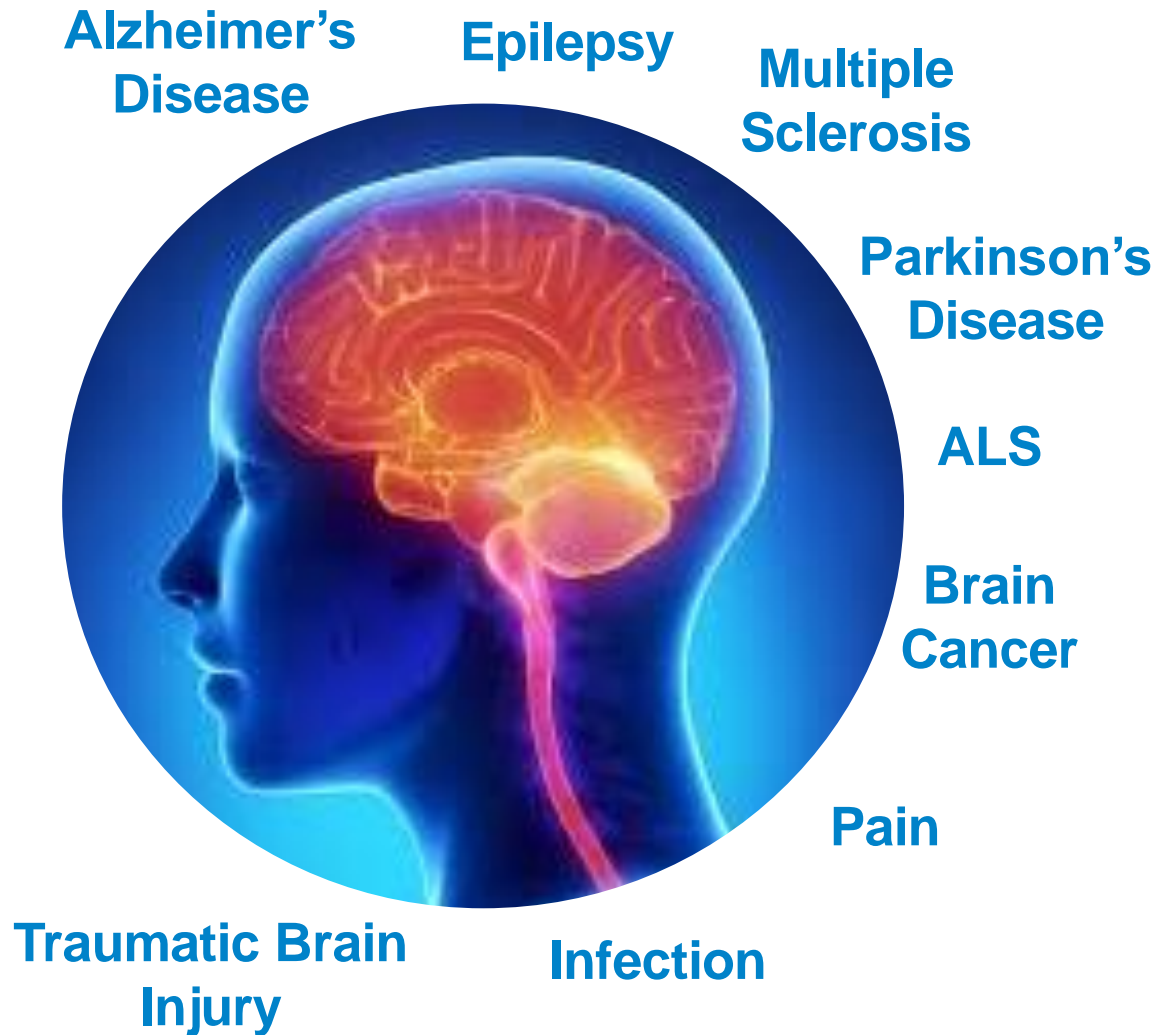
# Neurological Diseases Affect 1 in 6

- 10 million deaths annually
- Annual economic cost \$800B
- 40M cases of neurodegenerative diseases expected by 2050
- Few effective drugs





# Neuroinflammation Drives Many Diseases

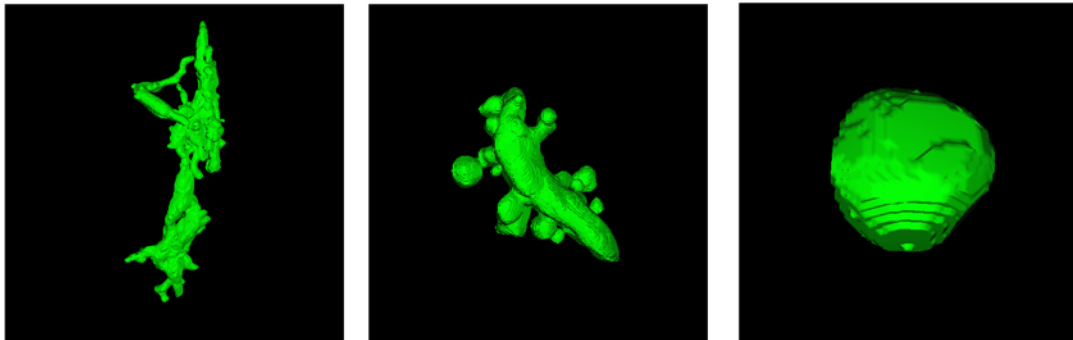


- Major focus for therapeutic intervention
- Tools available to model inflammation are inadequate
- Microglia are the brain's immune cells and drive inflammation
- Microglia are difficult to study in the lab

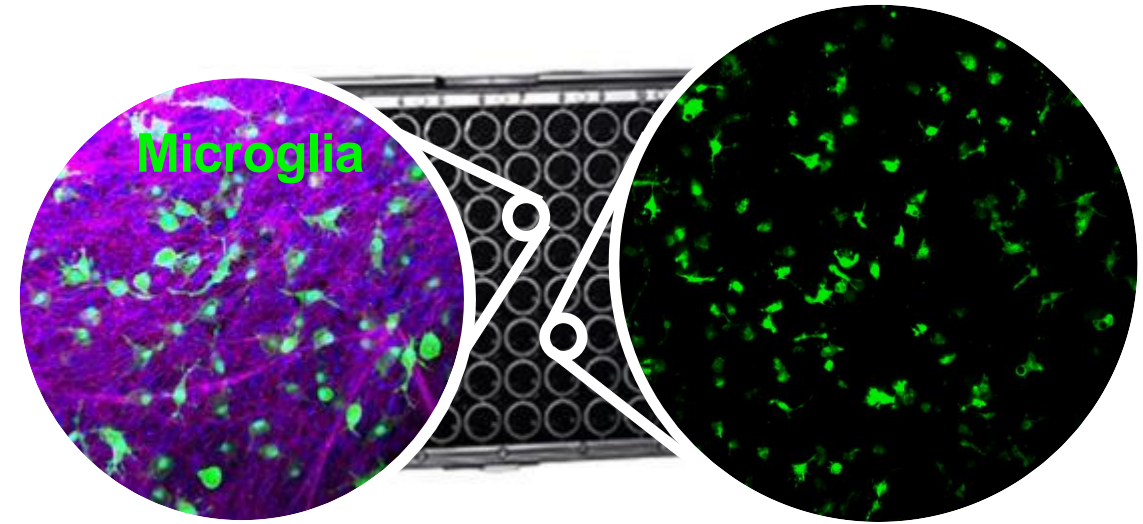
# Neural Organoid Platform Models Neuroinflammation

- Stem Pharm's "planar 3D" organoid enables incorporation of microglia
- Microglia supported with neurons, astrocytes, and vascular cells
- Validated biology - microglia function appropriately

Microglia phenotype changes in response to stimuli



↑ Sphericity = ↑ Activation



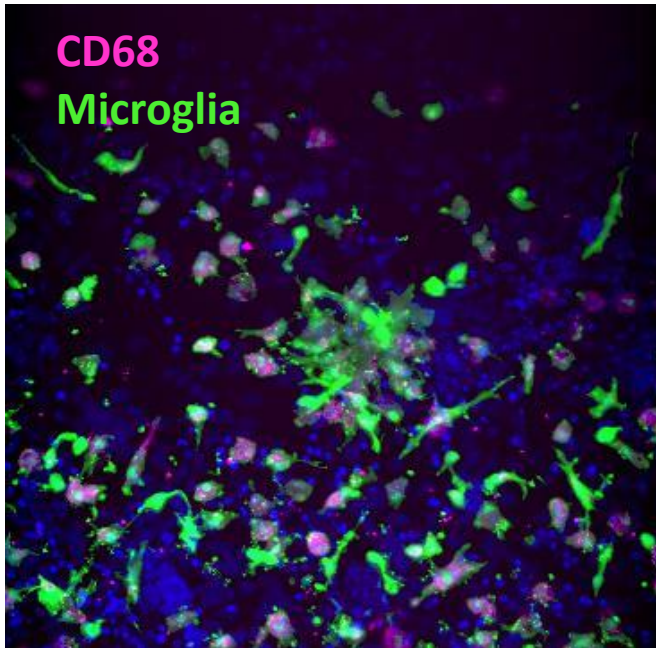
Differentiation: Neuroinflammation in 'Complex' 3D Human Environment

Value Prop: Better Clinical Translation!

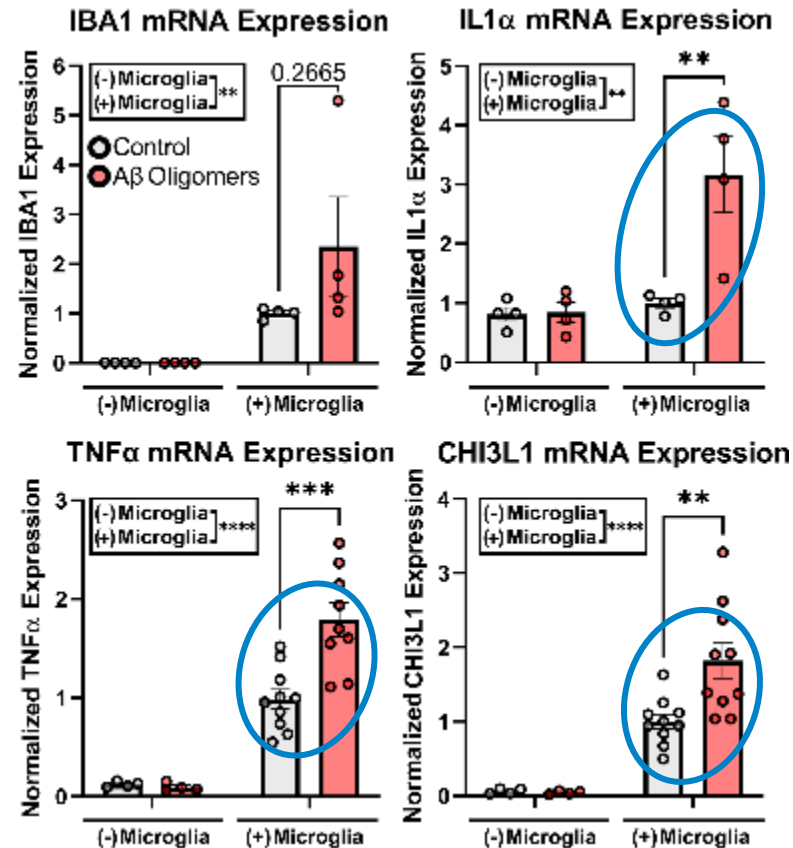
# Organoids are the Engine of a Drug Discovery Platform

## Case Study: Alzheimer's Disease Model via spiking of amyloid beta

High levels of CD68 expression seen - common marker of microglia phagocytosis



Response to Ab oligomers is microglia specific with elevated expression of immune markers



Rich toolbox of multi-modal readouts:

- Transcriptional
- Protein
- Morphology
- Cell health
- Function

# Strong IP Protection and Clear Competitive Advantage

- Intellectual Property: Licensed patents on organoid and hydrogel technology from University of Wisconsin (WARF)
- Competitive Advantage:
  - Superior biology
  - Only company with *in vivo*-like human microglia in robust screenable format
  - Best-in-class disease models leading to first-in-class/best-in-class drugs

Platform is **validated** and **implemented** into programs

# Platform Validated by Peers and Pharma Partners

- Awarded \$6M NIH SBIR grants
- Joined StartUp Health Alzheimer's Moonshot
- Graduated from two venture Accelerators
- Broadly validated pharmacological utility through projects with NIH and 10 pharma companies



National Institutes  
of Health  
SBIR/STTR



Illumina  
ACCELERATOR



**MERCK**

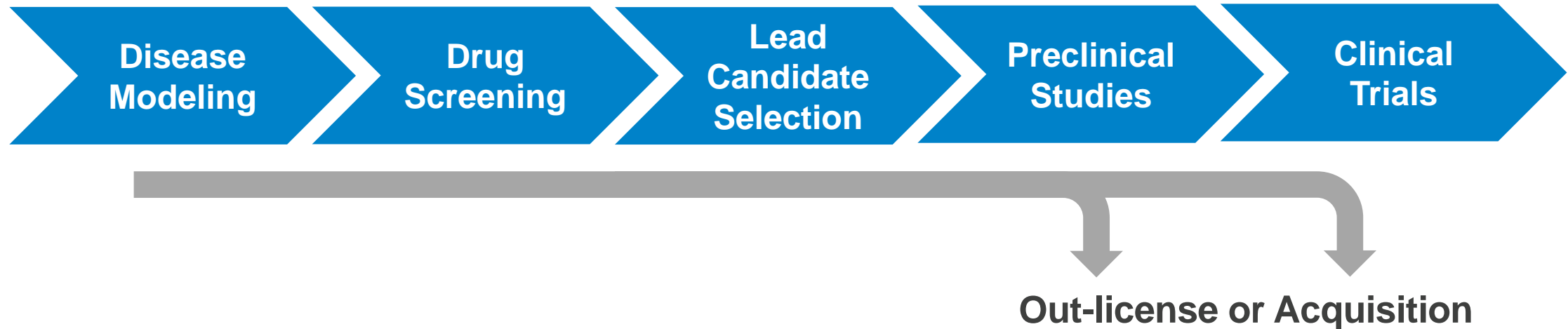
Merck  
Digital  
Sciences  
Studio



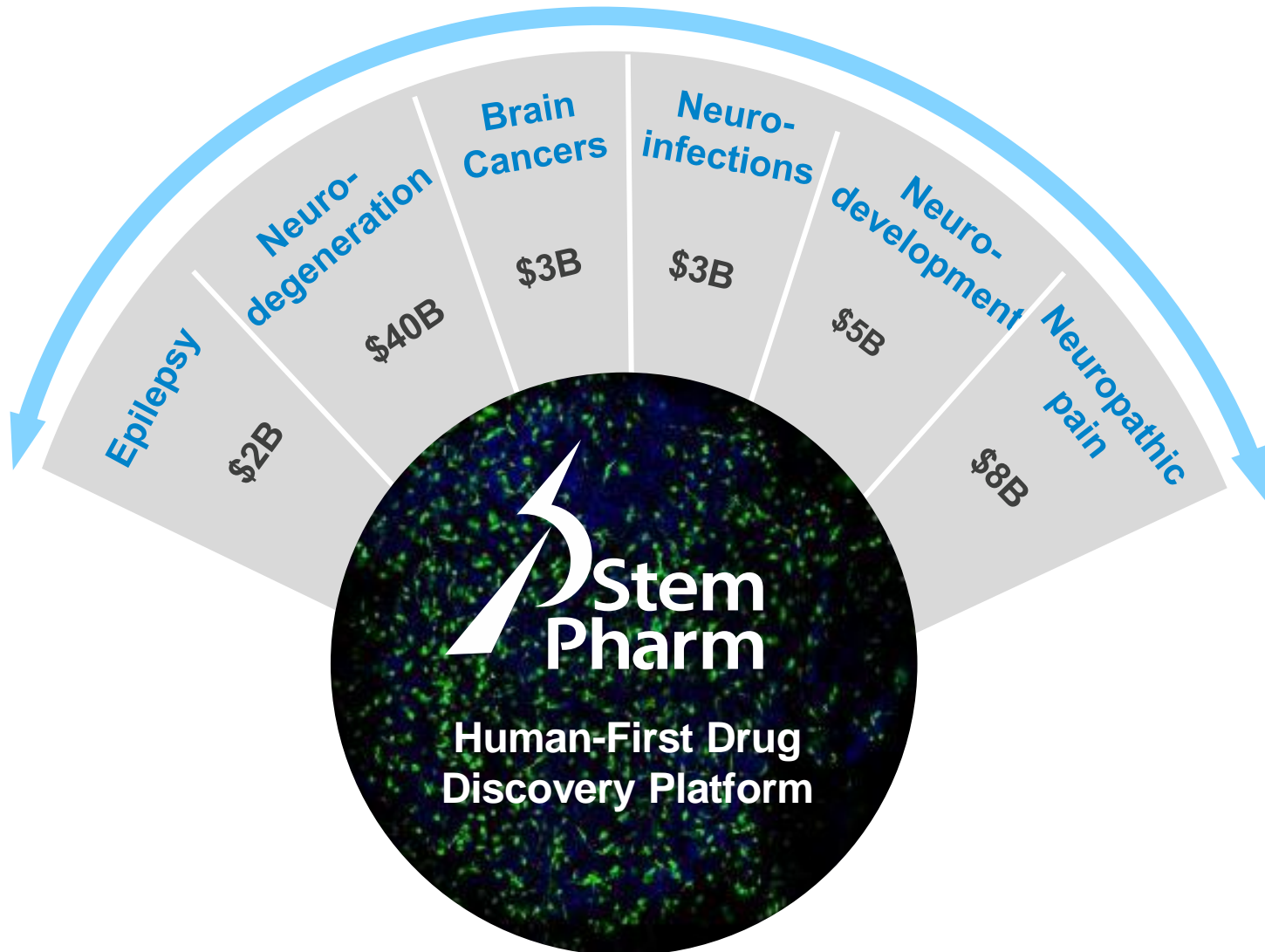


# Business Strategy: Develop Internal Pipeline & Out-License

- Identify and advance drugs that modulate microglia/neuroinflammation
- Focus on small molecule
- Generate novel chemistry
- Exit Strategy: Out-license assets or acquisition of platform



# Neuroinflammation is a \$60B Market Opportunity



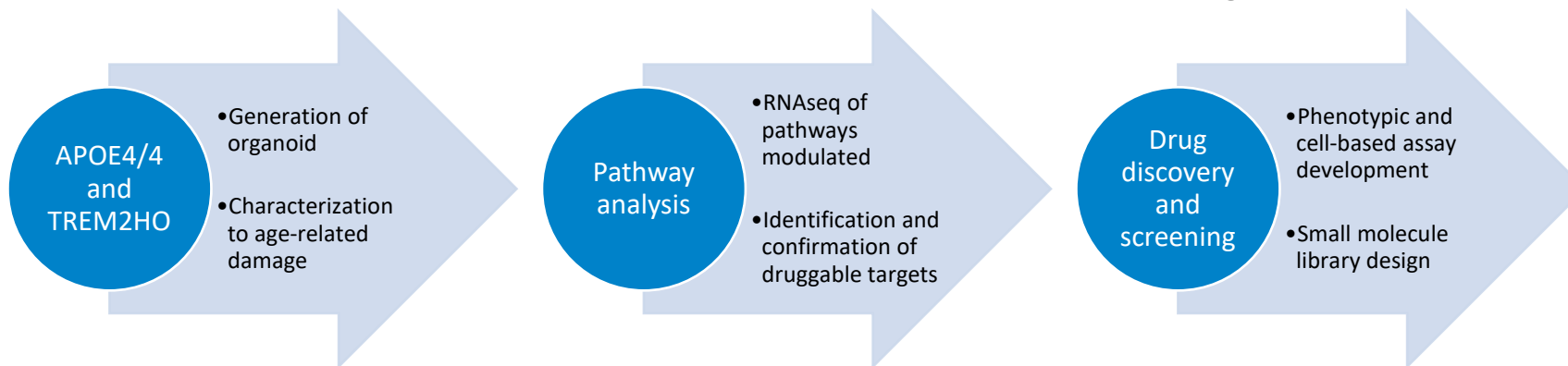
Focused on:

- Temporal Lobe Epilepsy
- Alzheimer's Disease

# Alzheimer's Disease Program

<b>Indication</b>	Early-stage Alzheimer's Disease in patients with genetic risk factor(s)
<b>Incidence</b>	1 in 8 over the age of 65 (all AD)
<b>Prevalence</b>	~3M (all AD)
<b>Standard of Care</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cholinesterase inhibitors</li><li>• Anti-Amyloid antibody therapies</li></ul>

- Therapeutic strategy: reduce AD-related neuroinflammation
- Approach:
  - Model AD with organoids incorporating AD-risk mutations
  - Validate Model by cross referencing transcriptomics vs validated targets and patient data
  - Screen focused libraries to identify lead candidates that impact disease phenotype
- Model validation supported by \$0.5M Phase I NIH/NIA SBIR grant
- Screening to be focus of Phase II submission

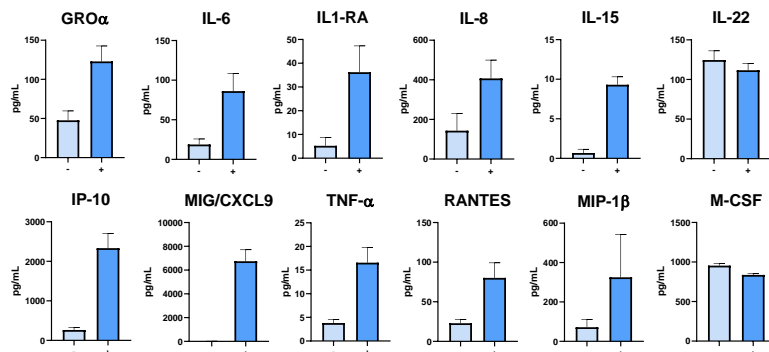


# Temporal Lobe Epilepsy (TLE) Program

<b>Indication</b>	Febrile seizure-induced temporal lobe epilepsy (drug resistant phenotype)
<b>Incidence</b>	68 per 100,000 (in US)
<b>Prevalence</b>	<b>200,000 patients with drug resistant TLE; 3.4M total prevalence (US)</b>
<b>Standard of Care</b>	Anti-epileptic drug therapy (often two or more), associated with poor QoL and function (in addition to seizures)

- Hippocampus sclerosis forms a nidus for persistent microglia-induced neuroinflammation >> chronic seizures
- Lack of effective therapies – poor models
- Approach:
  - Model TLE neuroinflammation with human organoids using disease-relevant stimuli
  - Validate against patient data and proof set of anti-inflammatory compounds
  - Screen focused libraries to identify lead candidates
  - Model validation supported by \$0.5M Phase I NIH/NINDS SBIR grant
  - Screening to be focus of Phase II submission

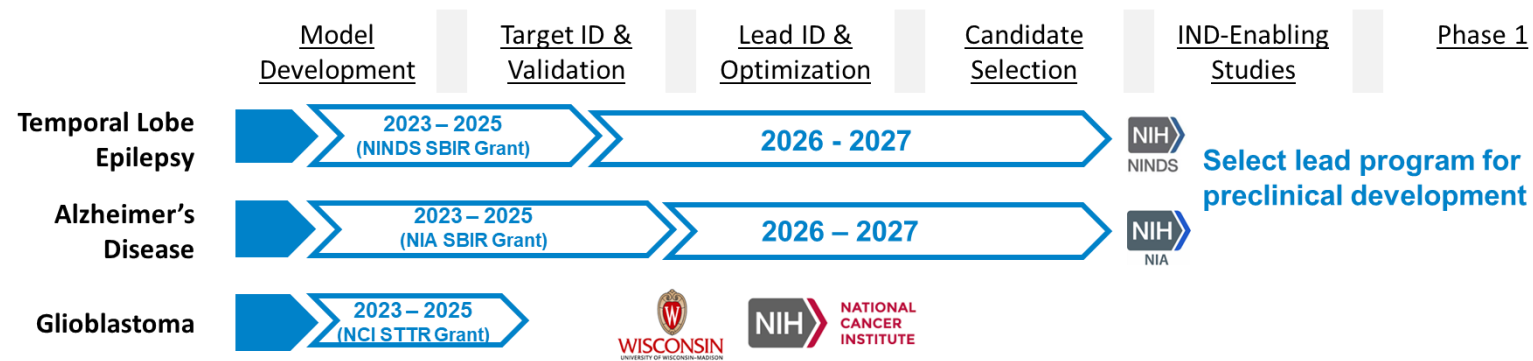
## TLE Neuroinflammation Model shows strong response to LPS





# Stem Pharm Is Raising \$3M Seed Round to Advance Its Pipeline

- Built and validated platform on \$8M pre-seed (75% non-dilutive)
- 3 active Phase I SBIR grants - **opportunity for \$7M in next 18 months**
- **Seed round to be used over ~18 months to get us to lead candidates:**
  - Validate screening assays
  - Perform screens and demonstrate effect on disease relevant pathway
  - Identify most promising hits for lead optimization
  - Expand team



# World-Class Advisory Support



**Mary Haak-Frendscho, PhD**  
CEO, Spotlight Therapeutics

- Experienced pharma executive and board member
- Startup and public company experience



**Anne Bang, PhD**  
Director, Sanford-Burnham Prebys

- Expertise in neurological diseases and application of stem cells to disease modeling and drug discovery



**Edsel Abud, MD, PhD**  
Clinical Scholar, Scripps

- Microglia and CNS disease expert
- One of first to develop microglia from human stem cells



**Sheila Singh, MD, PhD**  
Professor & Neurosurgeon,  
McMaster University

- Discovered brain tumor initiating stem cells
- Glioblastoma startup and exit



**Greg Stewart, PhD**  
Principal, Alchemy Neuroscience

- VP/Director at several neuroscience pharma companies
- Drug discovery and development program builder



**Mahua Dey, MD**  
Asst Professor & Neurosurgeon,  
University of Wisconsin School of  
Medicine and Public Health

- Investigating immunotherapy and vaccine strategies for malignant brain tumors

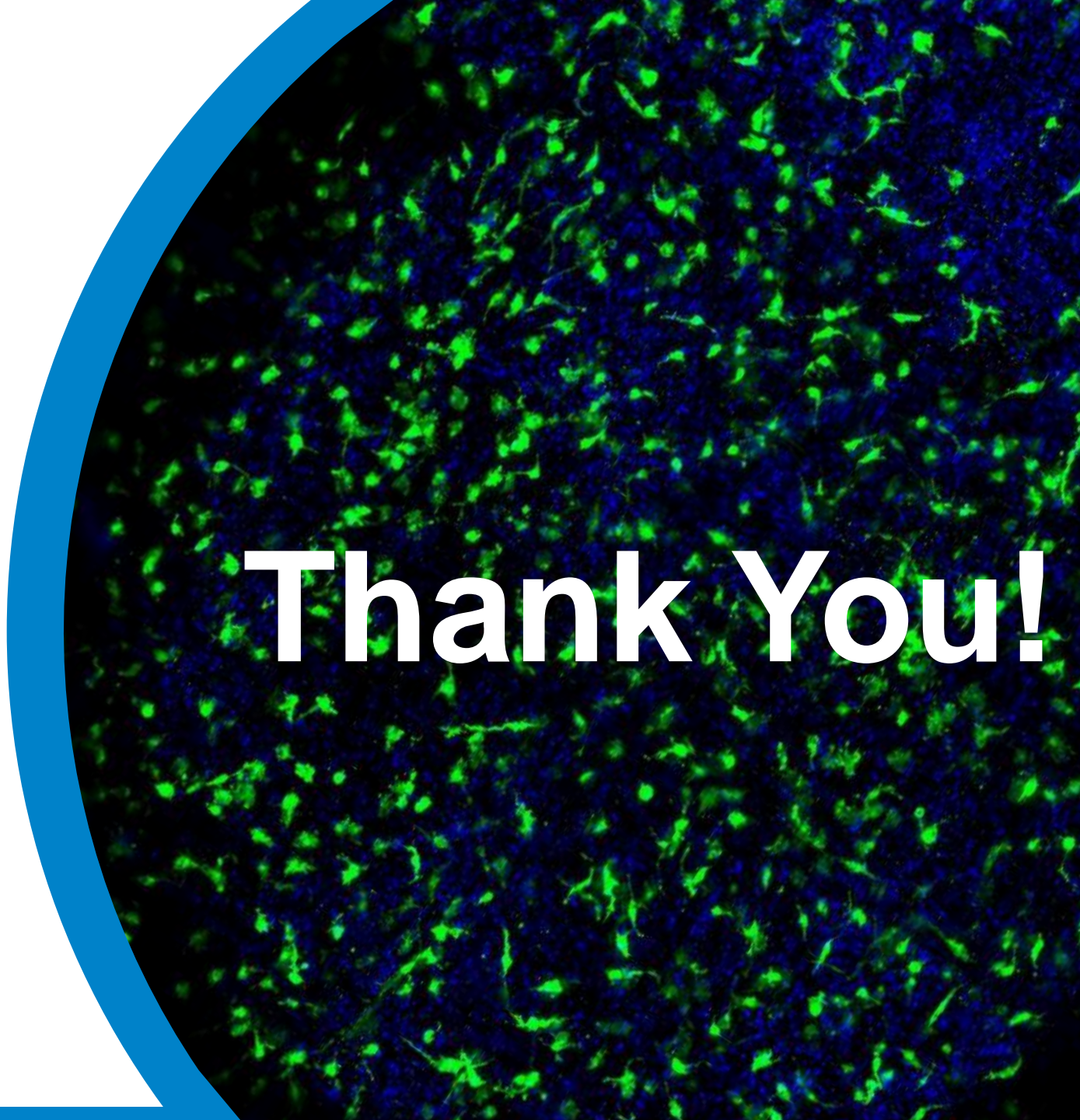
## Investors and Partners





- Forefront of developing therapeutics focused on neuroinflammation
- Validated neural organoid platform with greater clinical translation
- Raising \$3M Seed

**Steven Visuri, PhD**  
**CEO**  
**[steven.visuri@stempharm.com](mailto:steven.visuri@stempharm.com)**

A large circular inset on the right side of the slide shows a microscopic view of neural organoids. The organoids are densely packed and exhibit a complex network of green and blue fluorescent signals, indicating cellular activity and structure.

# Thank You!