

# Conflict of Interest

Inge De Lepeleire is an employee of MSD (Europe) Inc.

# IMPACT OF CHOLINERGIC TONE ON THE BINDING OF PET TRACER [<sup>11</sup>C]MK-6884, A POSITIVE ALLOSTERIC MODULATOR OF M4 ACETYLCHOLINE RECEPTOR IN MONKEYS AND HEALTHY ELDERLY VOLUNTEERS



**MSD**

INVENTING FOR LIFE

May 2019  
EUFEMED congress 2019

# Study outline

- [ $^{11}\text{C}$ ]MK-6884 PET study in Rhesus Monkeys
- Human PK/PD model of plasma Donepezil (DPZ) concentrations vs Striatal Binding Potential ( $\text{BP}_{\text{ND}}$ )
- [ $^{11}\text{C}$ ]MK-6884 PET study in Healthy Elderly Volunteers (HVs)



**To assess indirect, allosteric modulatory effects of Donepezil on binding of [ $^{11}\text{C}$ ]MK-6884 to striatal M4 PAM sites**

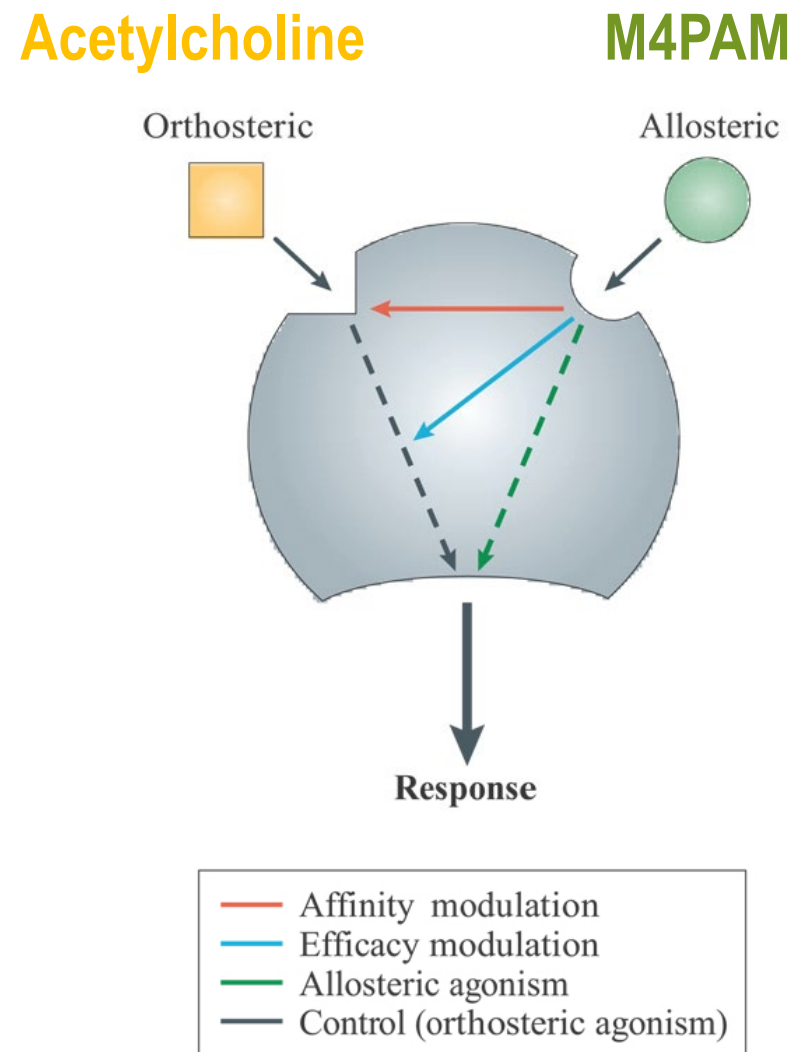
# Background

## [<sup>11</sup>C]MK-6884 :

- Positive Allosteric Modulator of Muscarinic M4 Acetylcholine (ACh) receptors (M4 PAM)
- Novel PET tracer to inform on altered binding of M4PAM drugs in function of central cholinergic tone

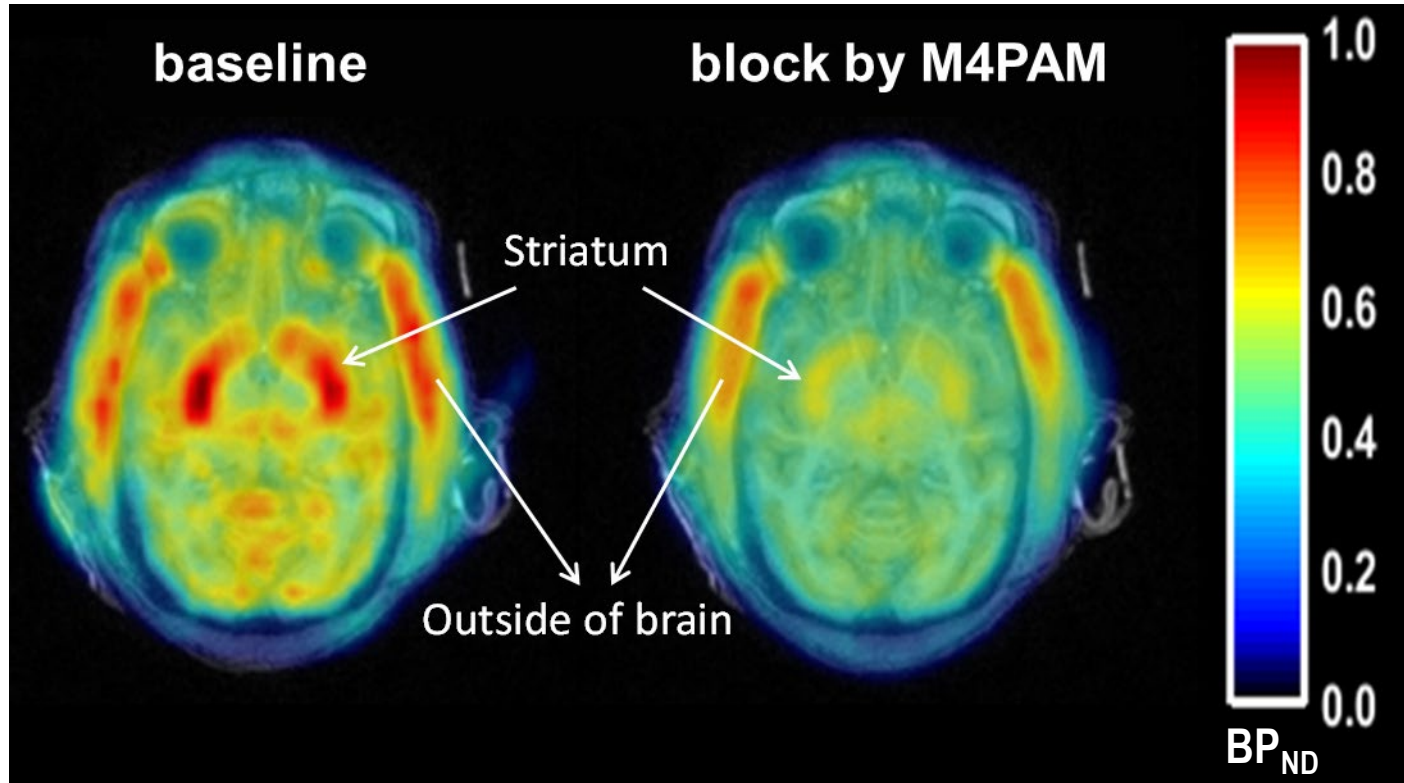
## Donepezil (DPZ) :

- Acetylcholinesterase (AChE) inhibitor for treatment of cognitive deficits in AD
- Increases brain ACh concentrations



*P.J. Conn et al., Nature Rev. Drug Discov. (2009) 8, 41*

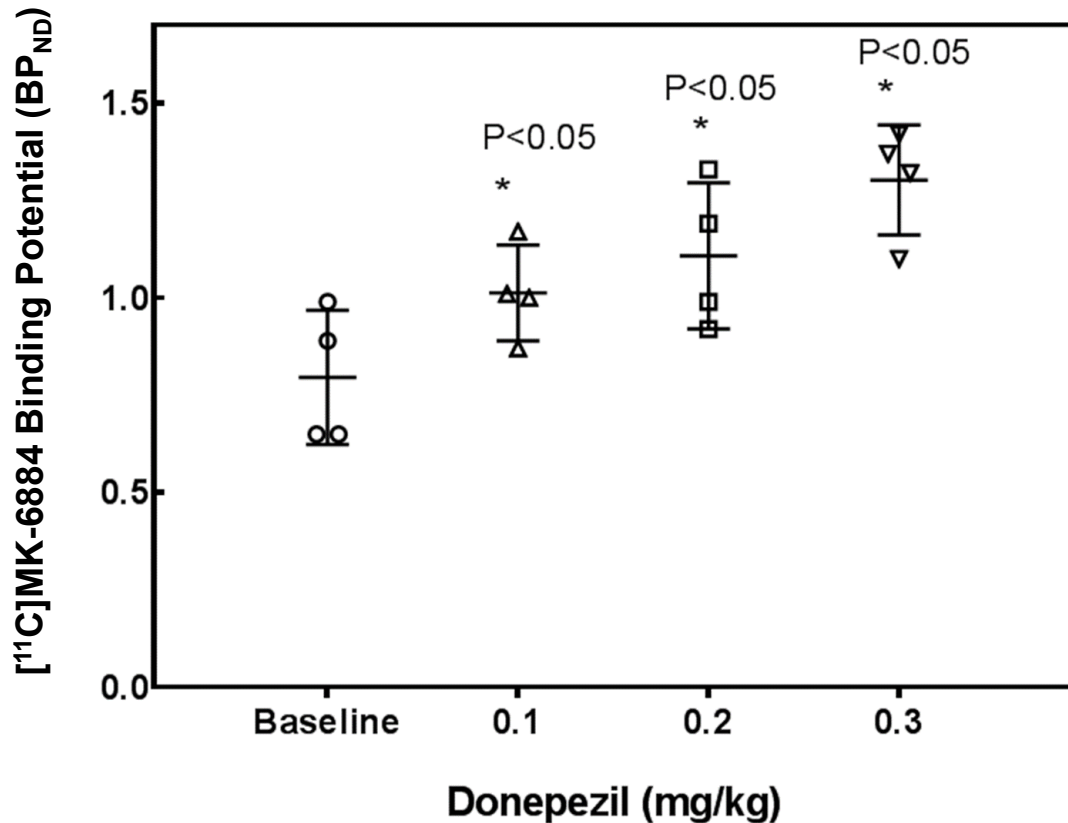
# [<sup>11</sup>C]MK-6884 In Vivo Characterization in Rhesus Monkeys



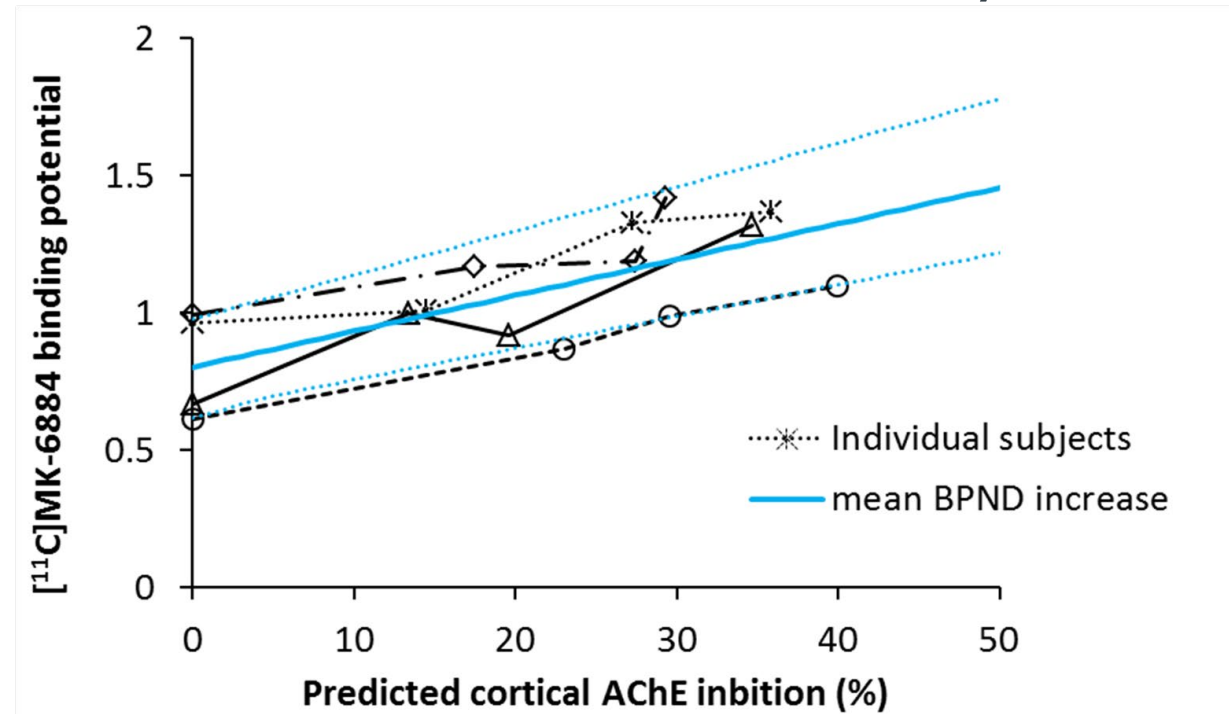
Specific binding signal of [<sup>11</sup>C]MK-6884 in monkey striatal region

# Cholinergic Tone Impacts Binding of $[^{11}\text{C}]\text{MK-6884}$ in Rhesus Monkeys

Striatal  $\text{BP}_{\text{ND}}$  vs DPZ Dose



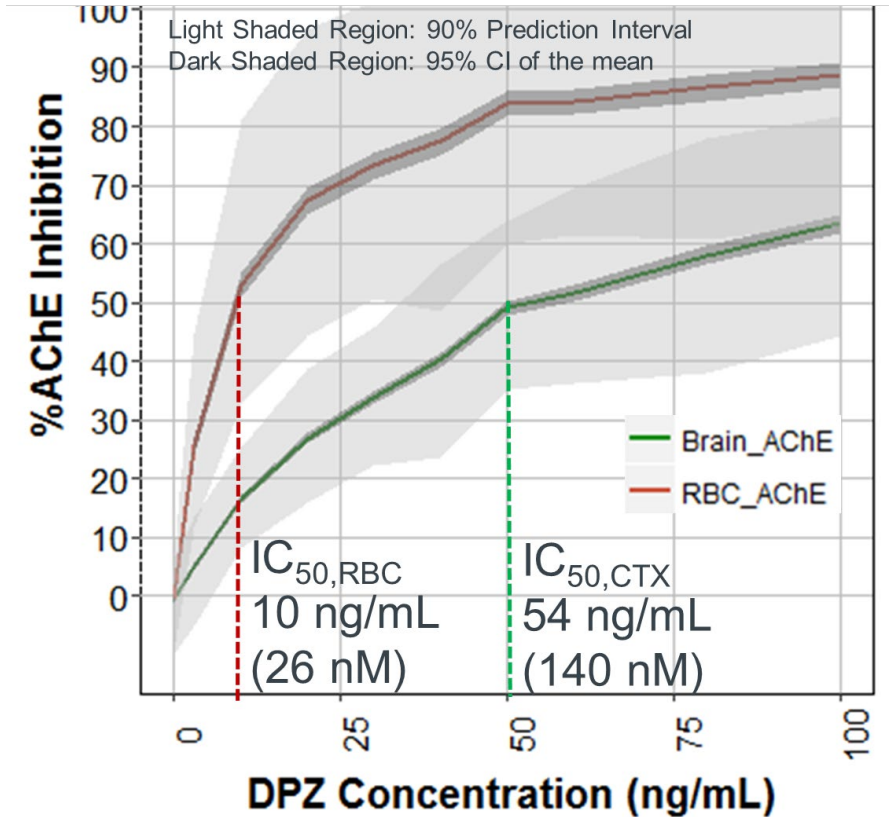
Striatal  $\text{BP}_{\text{ND}}$  vs % inhibition of Brain AChE Activity



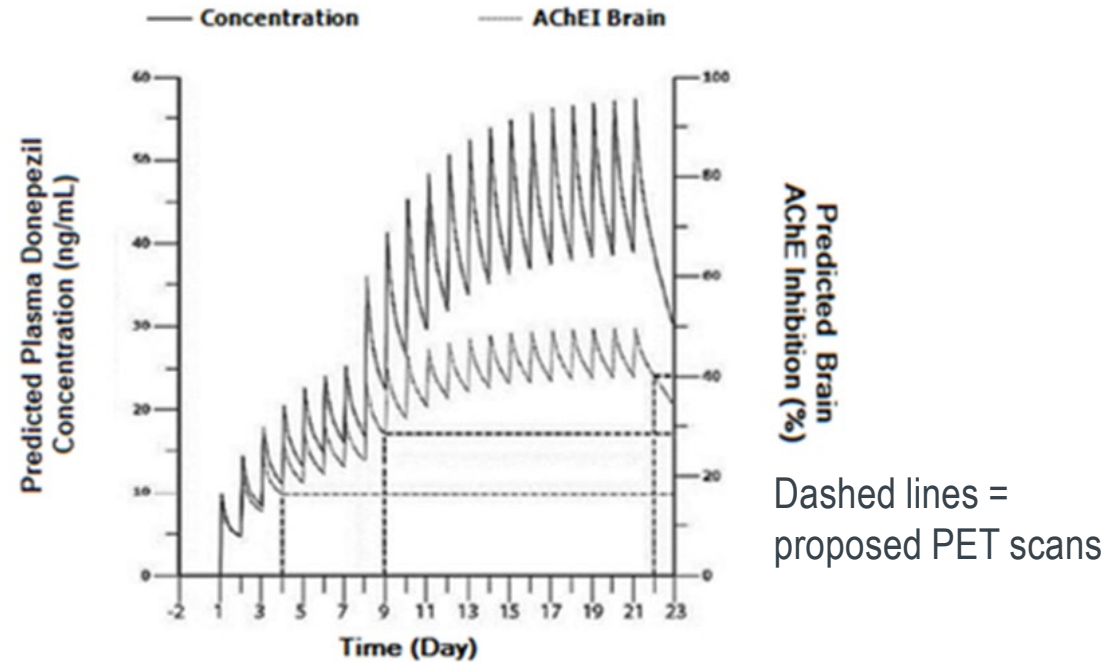
Shiraishi *et al.*, Neuropsychopharmacology (2005) 30, 2154

# PK/PD modeling to Inform Human PET study

## Inhibition of AChE activity in RBCs and cortex vs DPZ Cp



## Simulations of DPZ Cp and brain AChE inhibition



Predicted Increase in [<sup>11</sup>C]MK-6884 Striatal BP<sub>ND</sub>

- 7 days DPZ 5 mg qd : ~1.5 fold
- 21 days DPZ 10 mg qd : ~1.8 fold

Tiseo *et al.*, Br. J. Clin. Pharmacol. (1998) 46 (Suppl 1) 13

Tiseo *et al.*, Br. J. Clin. Pharmacol. (1998) 46 (Suppl 1) 40



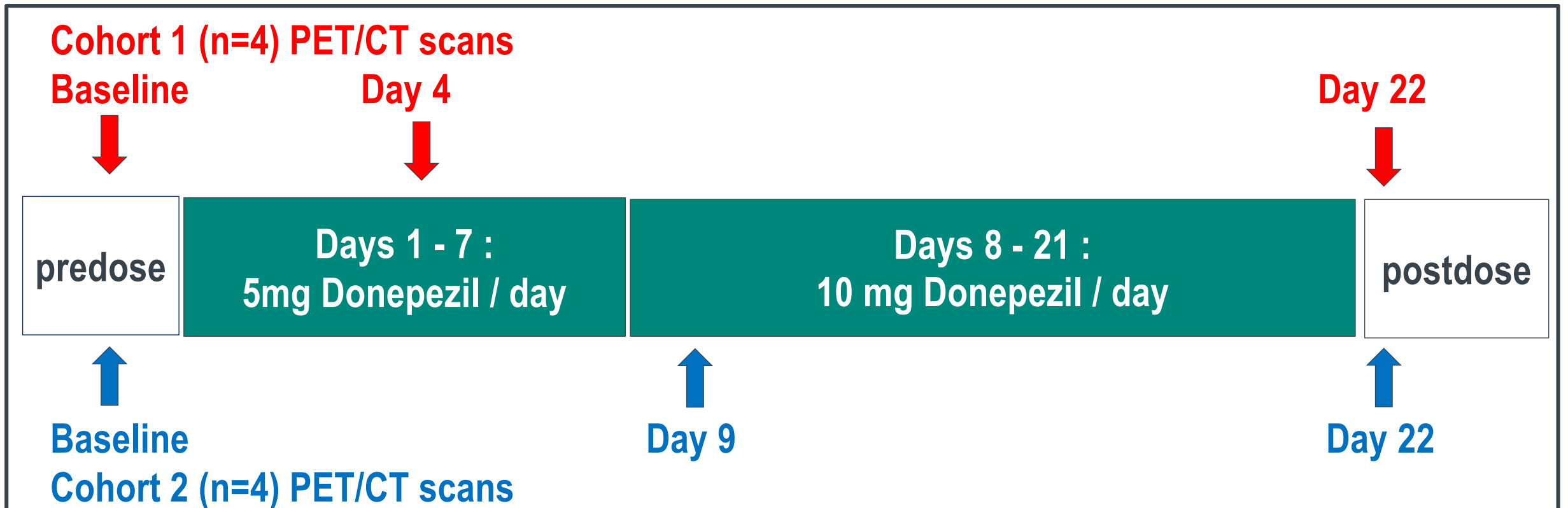
INVENTING FOR LIFE

# Phase 1 Study Outline

2 cohorts of n= 4 HVs each (age 57-64 yrs)

3 PET/CT scans ( [<sup>11</sup>C]MK-6884 : ~300MBq, mass ≤ 4.9 μg per scan)

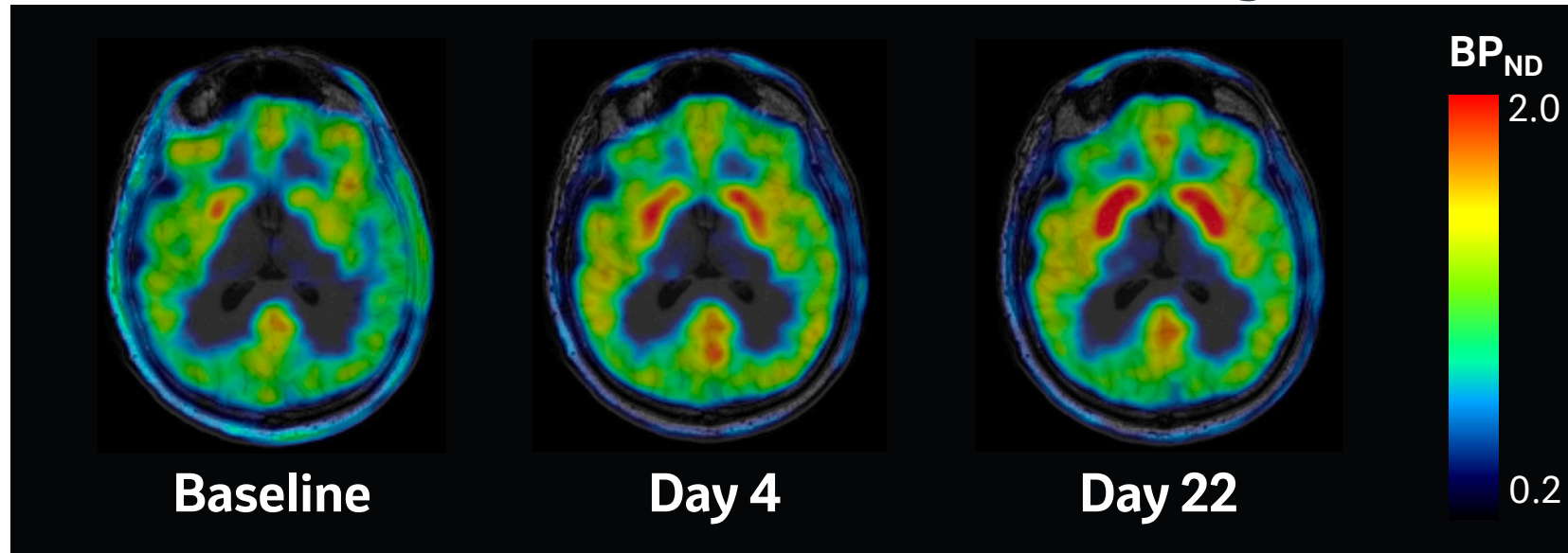
PK (DPZ Cp) and PD (RBC-AChE activity) at each scan





# Effects of Donepezil on the Striatal $BP_{ND}$ of $[^{11}C]MK-6884$ in HVs

PET-MR Fusion Parametric Images



Observed DPZ  $C_{trough}$

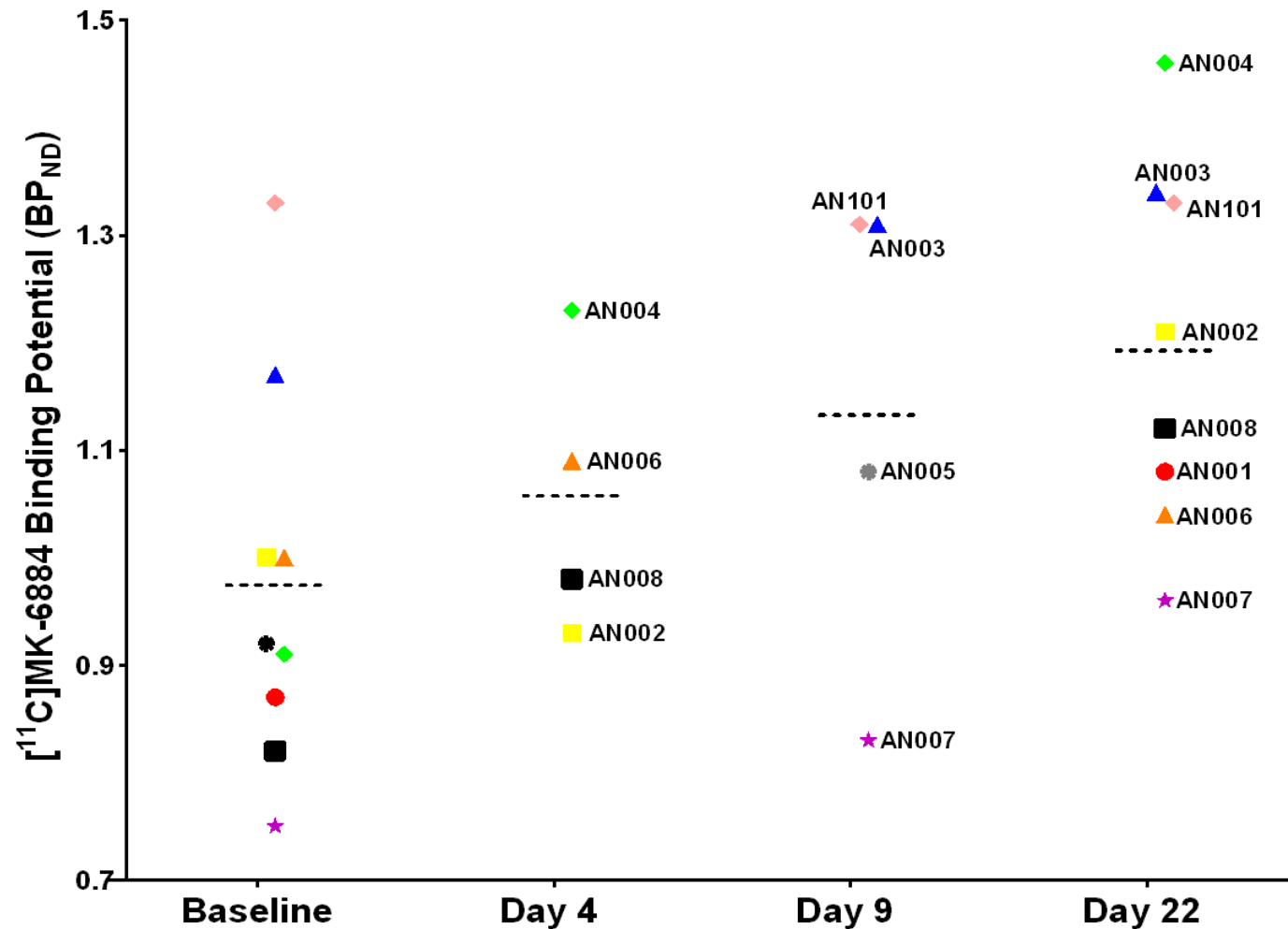
	$C_{trough}$ ng/mL (%CV)
Day 4	6.4 (31)
Day 9	19 (39)
Day 22	30 (58)

○ Donepezil Treatment 5mg QD x 7 days    ○ Donepezil Treatment 10mg QD x 14 days    ○

normal ACh tone

increased ACh tone

# Donepezil dose-dependently enhances the Striatal $BP_{ND}$ of [ $^{11}C$ ]MK-6884 in HVs



1.2 fold (p=0.0076)  
Increase in striatal  $BP_{ND}$   
at Day 22

# Conclusions

- $BP_{ND}$  of [ $^{11}C$ ]MK-6884 in monkey and HV increased by DPZ
  - Concentration-dependent => consistent with influence of cholinergic tone on M4PAM binding.
- Increase in striatal  $BP_{ND}$  more pronounced in monkey vs human.
- Minimal number of PET scans for optimal characterization of effect of altered ACh tone on [ $^{11}C$ ]MK-6884 binding in human.
- Evidence of potential utility of [ $^{11}C$ ]MK-6884 for assessment of receptor occupancy of M4PAMs

Data could aid in development of a model that would inform dose adjustments of M4PAM compounds in AD patients who are taking AChEI, thereby avoiding the development of adverse events while providing maximal efficacy.

# Contributors :

**Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, NJ, USA**

T. Bueters

A.M. Hussain

Y. Wang

T.G. Lohith

H.D. Haley

M.L. Purcell

M.A. Holahan

E.D. Hostetler

P.J. Coleman

J.A. Morrow

J.M. Uslaner

R.D. Mazzola Jr.

L. Tong

Y. Li

A.S. Basile

W. Li

**MSD (Europe) Inc., Brussels, Belgium**

R. Declercq

**Department of Radiopharmacy, KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium**

G. Bormans

K. Serdons

**Division of Nuclear Medicine, KU Leuven and University Hospital  
Leuven, Leuven, Belgium**

M. Koole

K. Van Laere

**Center for Clinical Pharmacology, KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium**

A. Van Hecken

J.N. de Hoon

C. Vandermeulen

**We thank the subjects who participated in the study ,  
as well as the study staff of the University and University  
Hospital of Leuven, Belgium for the excellent conduct of  
the study.**