

# DAA therapy – a (r)evolution in Hepatitis C therapy

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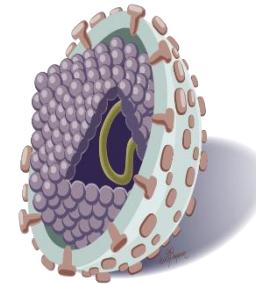
DIVISION OF  
HEPATOLOGY  
AND LIVER  
LABORATORY



ELIMINATE ~~HEPATITIS~~



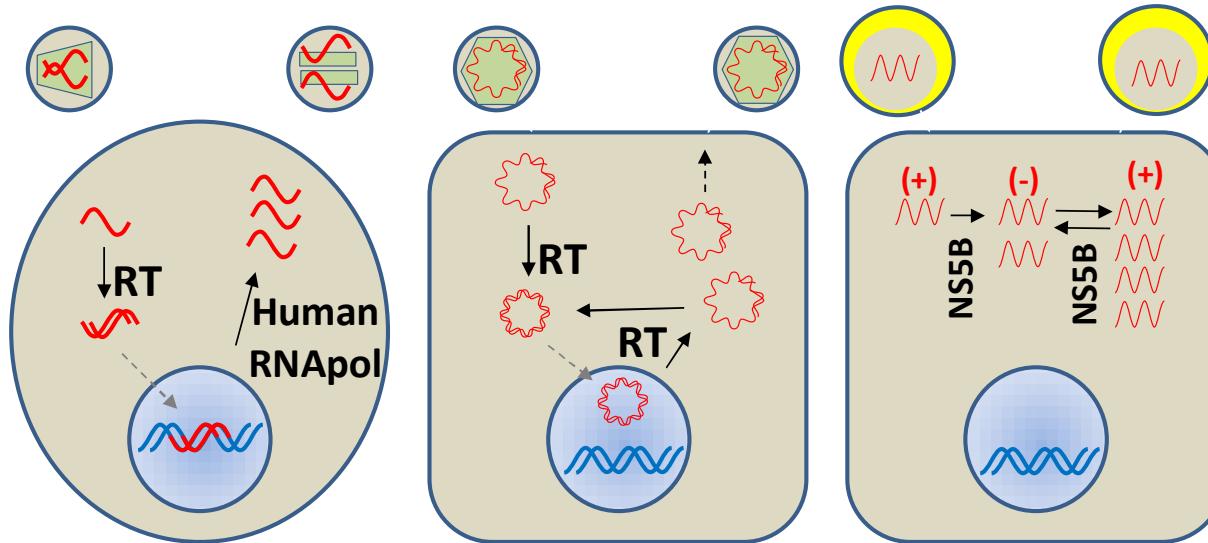
2019 marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the formal discovery of Hepatitis C virus (“non-A non-B”)



- 1989 Choo *et al* (*Chiron and CDC*) sequenced the *Hepatitis C virus*
- 1<sup>st</sup> HCV antibody assay 1990 : prevented > 40 000 new infections/year from blood transfusions
- Since 1997 no new cases of Post-Transfusion Hepatitis have been described

# Goal of HCV treatment is viral cure

HCV life Cycle favors resistance development not persistence



	HIV	HBV	HCV
<b>Stable genome</b>	Provirus	cccDNA	(none)
<b>Virion NA polymerase</b>	Host RNAPol	HBV RT	HCV NS5B
<b>Error-prone replications per cell</b>	One	Multiple	Multiple
<b>Plasticity of genome</b>	High	Constrained	Very high
<b>Recombination</b>	Common	Common	Rare

**From Interferon to why now HCV elimination is a reality...**

# HCV – the beginning

- Interferon (and ribavirin)
- Many adverse effects
- Not suited to many patients

# Evolution of hepatitis C treatment

Discovery of HCV genome

Treatment with IFN alfa for 24 or 48 weeks - 3x weekly dosing - Poor outcomes

Addition of RBV to IFN alfa improved outcomes

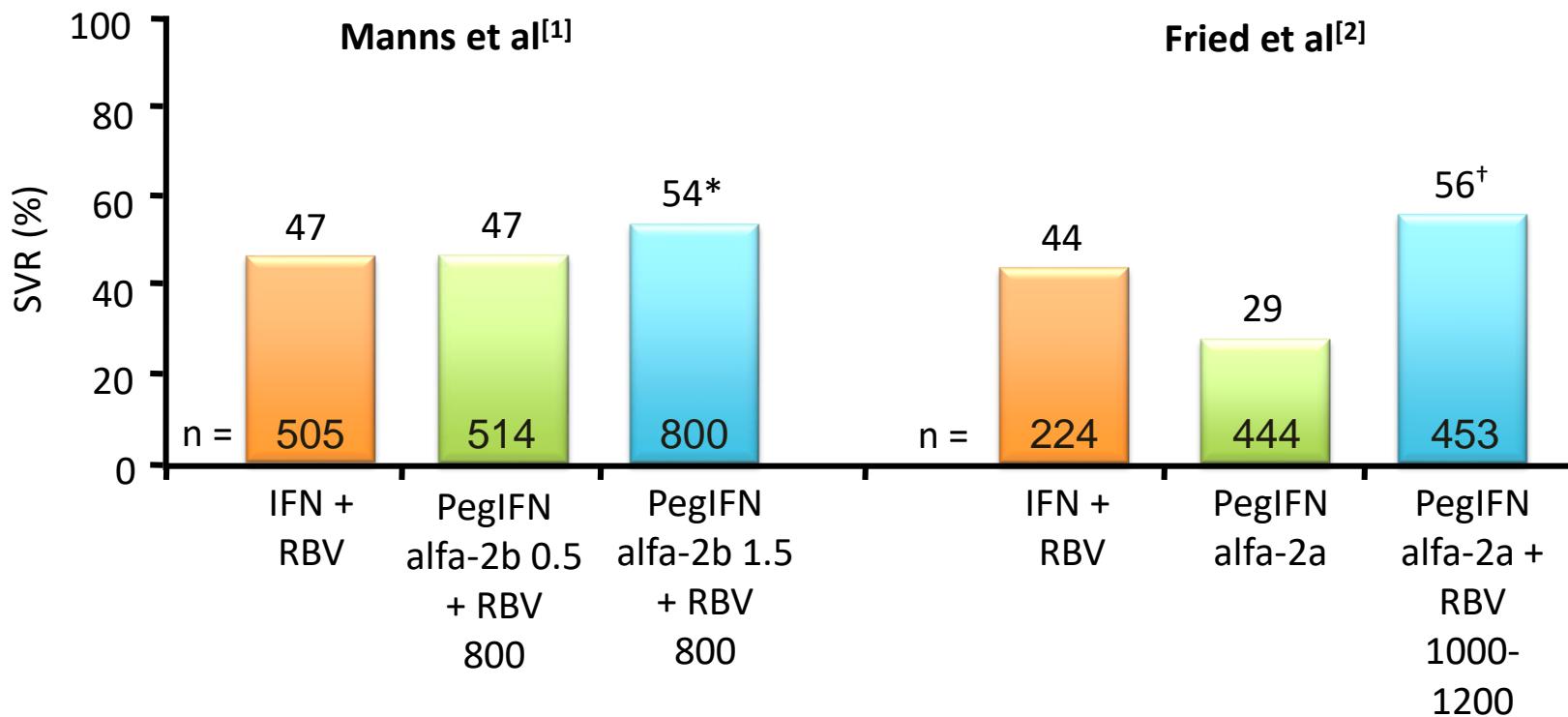
Peg-IFN mono - once-weekly dosing

Peg-IFN  $\alpha$  plus RBV becomes gold standard

1989

2011

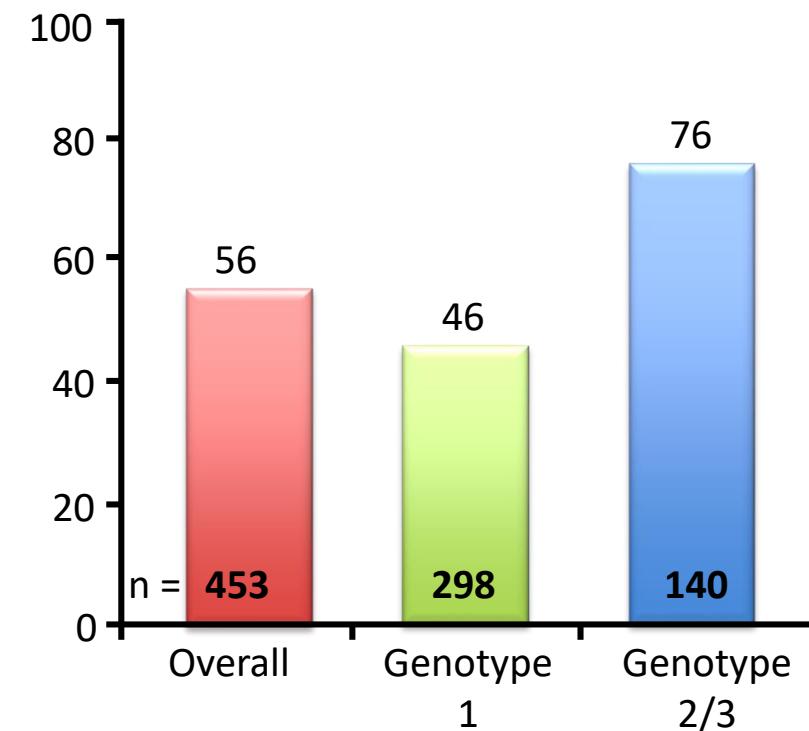
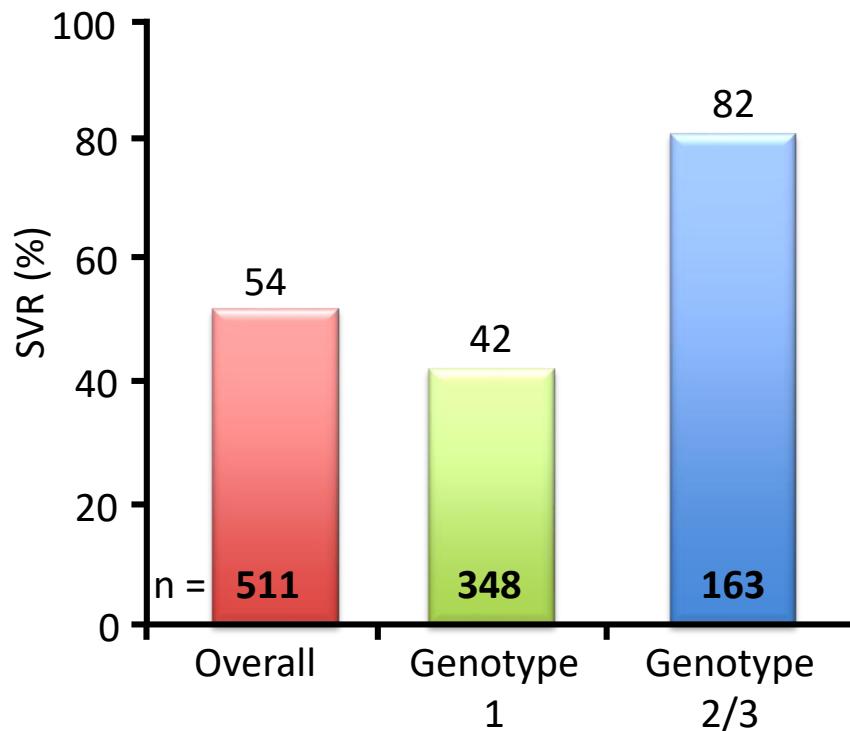
# SVR with Peg-IFN + RBV combination Rx



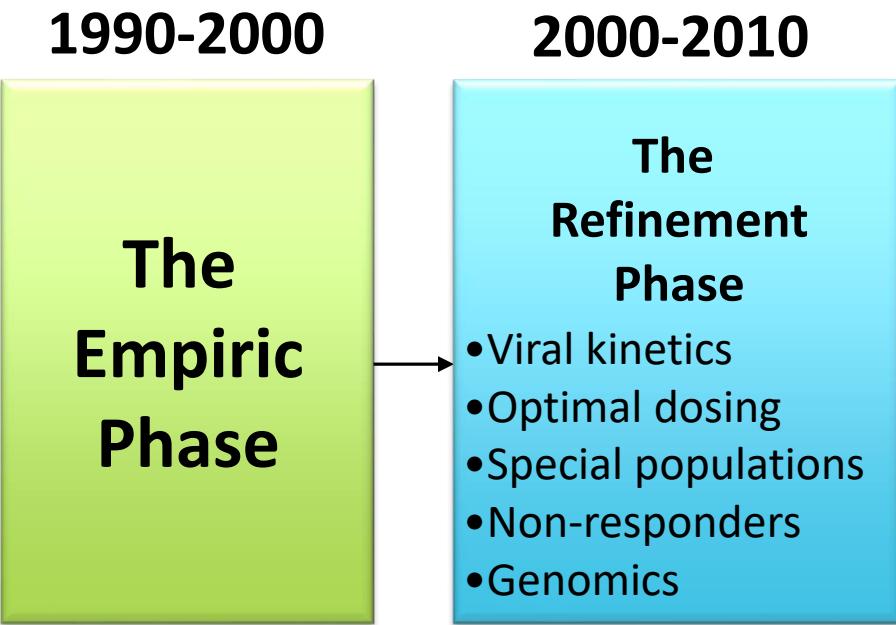
\* $P = .01$  vs both arms, † $P = .001$  vs both arms

# Impact of Genotype on SVR Rates

- PegIFN alfa-2b 1.5 µg/kg/wk + RBV 800 mg/day for 48 wks
- PegIFN alfa-2a 180 µg/wk + weight-based RBV (1000 or 1200 mg/d) for 48 wks

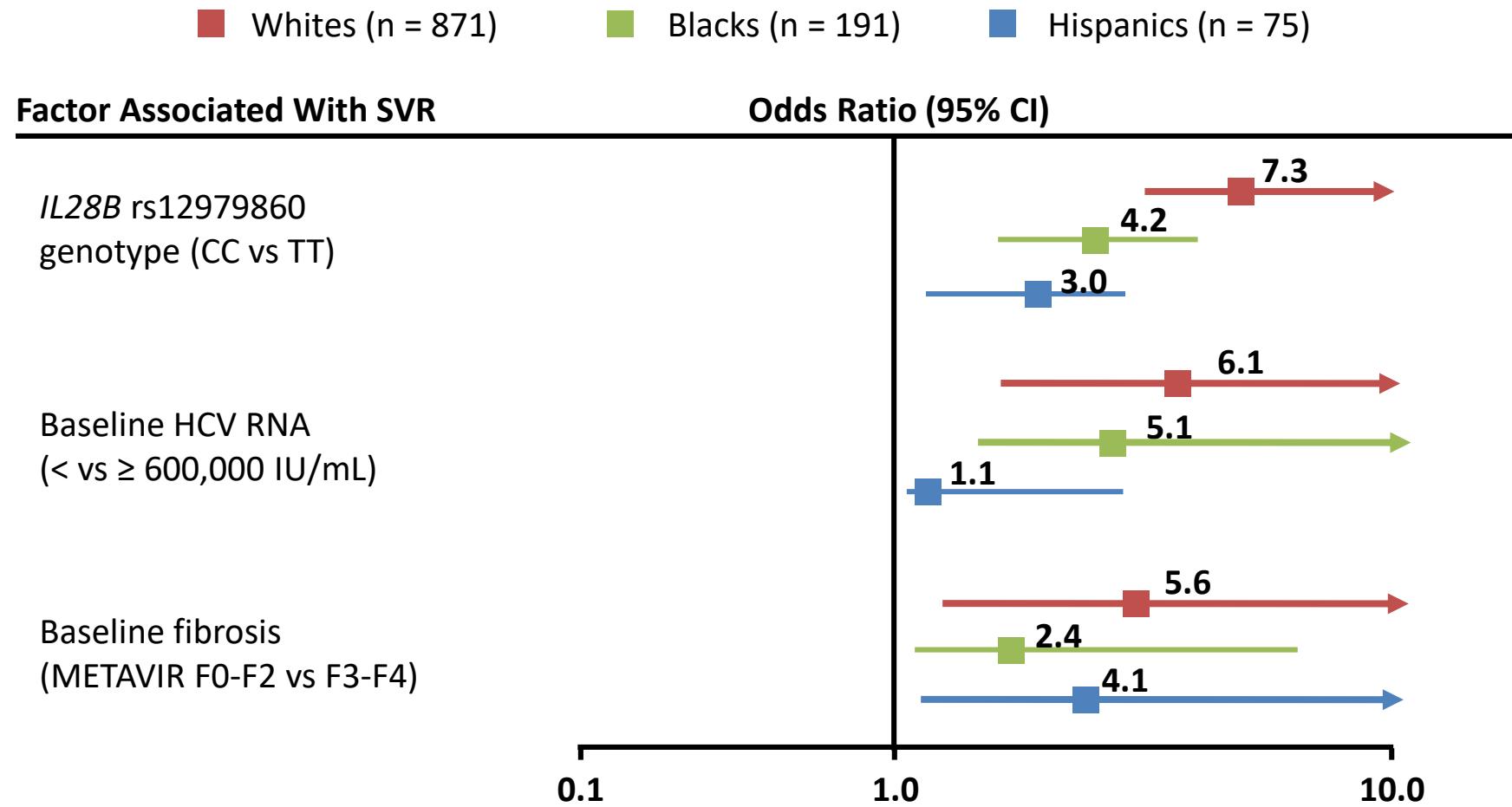


# The (r)evolution of HCV therapy

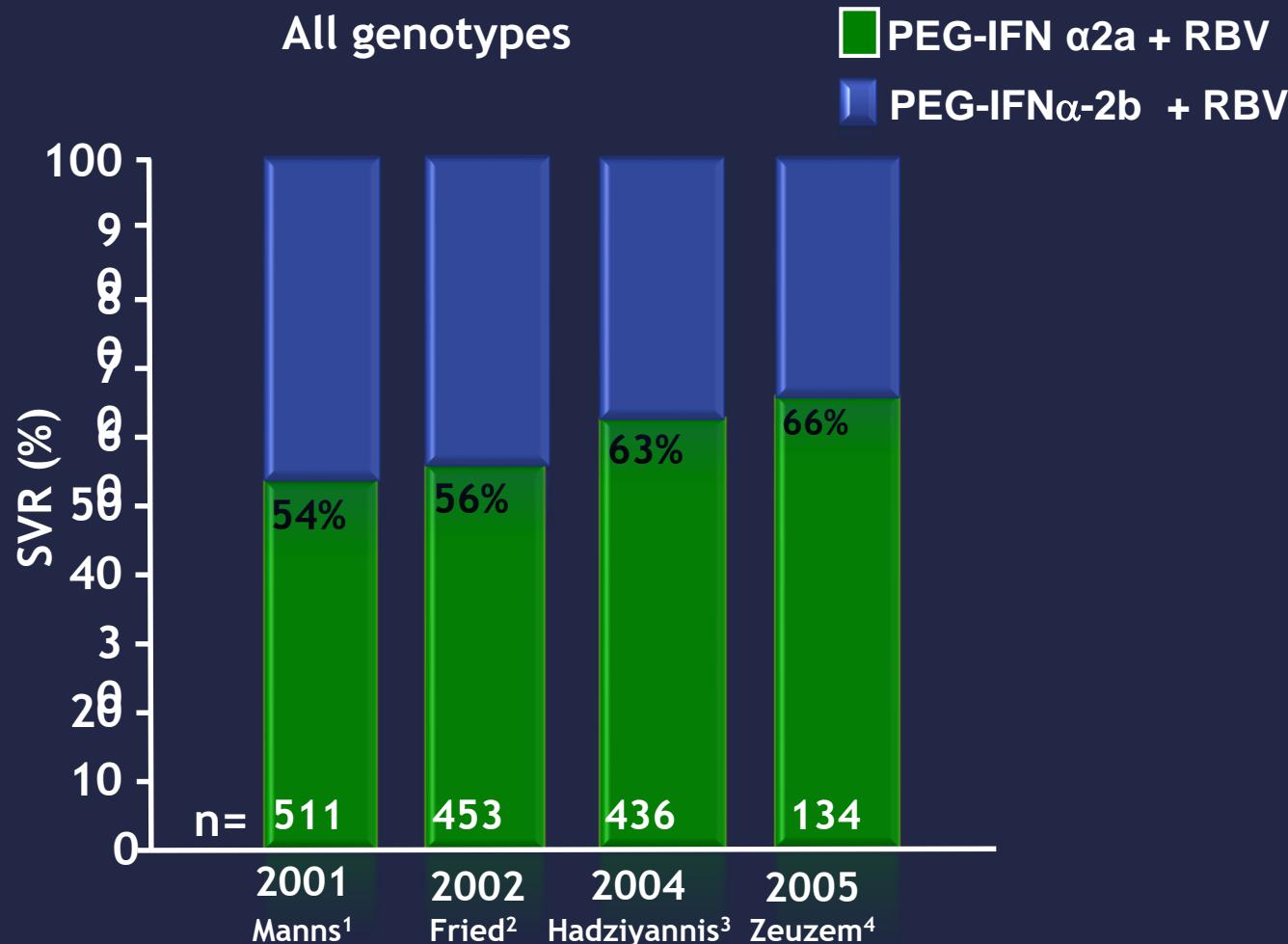


# Major predictive factors

~2010



# Summary 1989 - 2011: SVR rates increase over time but 30-50% of patients do not achieve SVR



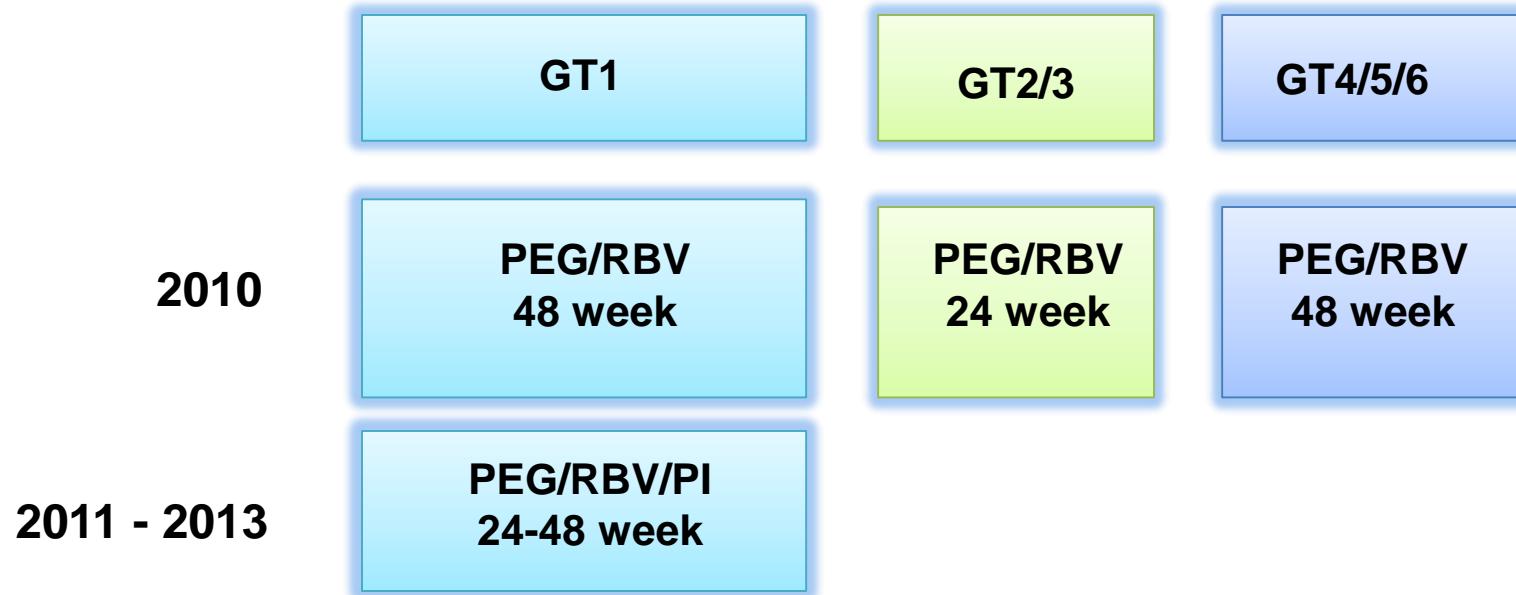
1. Manns M, et al. Lancet 2001; 358: 958; 2. Fried M, et al. N Engl J Med 2002; 347: 975;  
3. Hadziyannis S, et al. Ann Intern Med 2004; 140: 346 4. Zeuzem S, et al. J Hepatol 2005; 43: 250

# 1<sup>st</sup> generation NS3 Protease Inhibitors

## 2 HCV (NS3) Protease Inhibitors approved in 2011

- Active ONLY against HCV GENOTYPE 1
- TELAPREVIR (*INCIVO<sup>R</sup>*) and BOCEPREVIR (*VICTRELIS<sup>R</sup>*)
- As triple therapy in combination with PEG-IFN and RBV
- SVR ~75% with treatment potentially at 24 weeks

# HCV Treatment Landscape 2011-2013



**PI = protease inhibitor**  
**(Telaprevir/Boceprevir)**

# HCV – The way to a cure

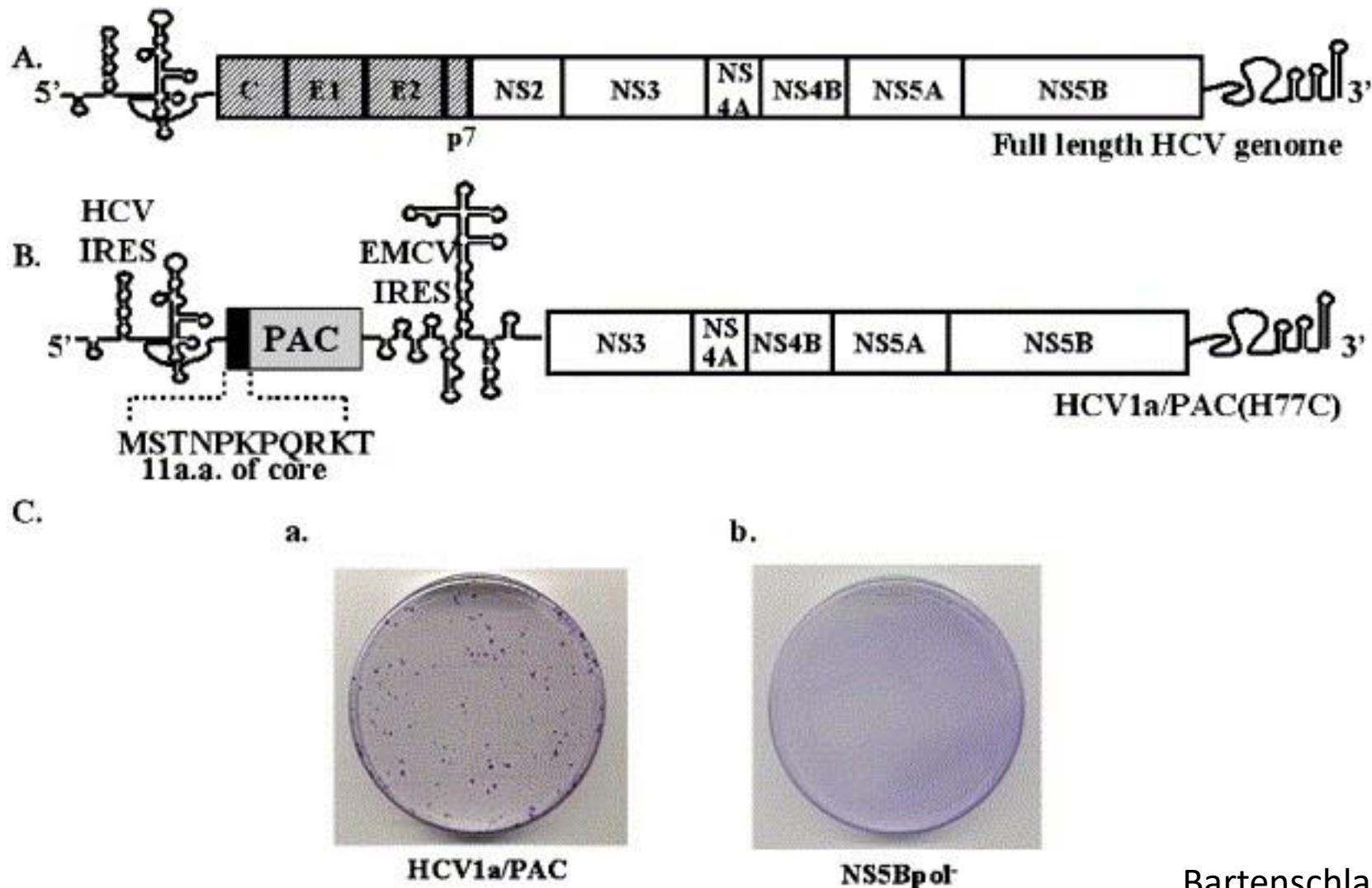


Ralf Bartenschlager, Germany, University of Heidelberg



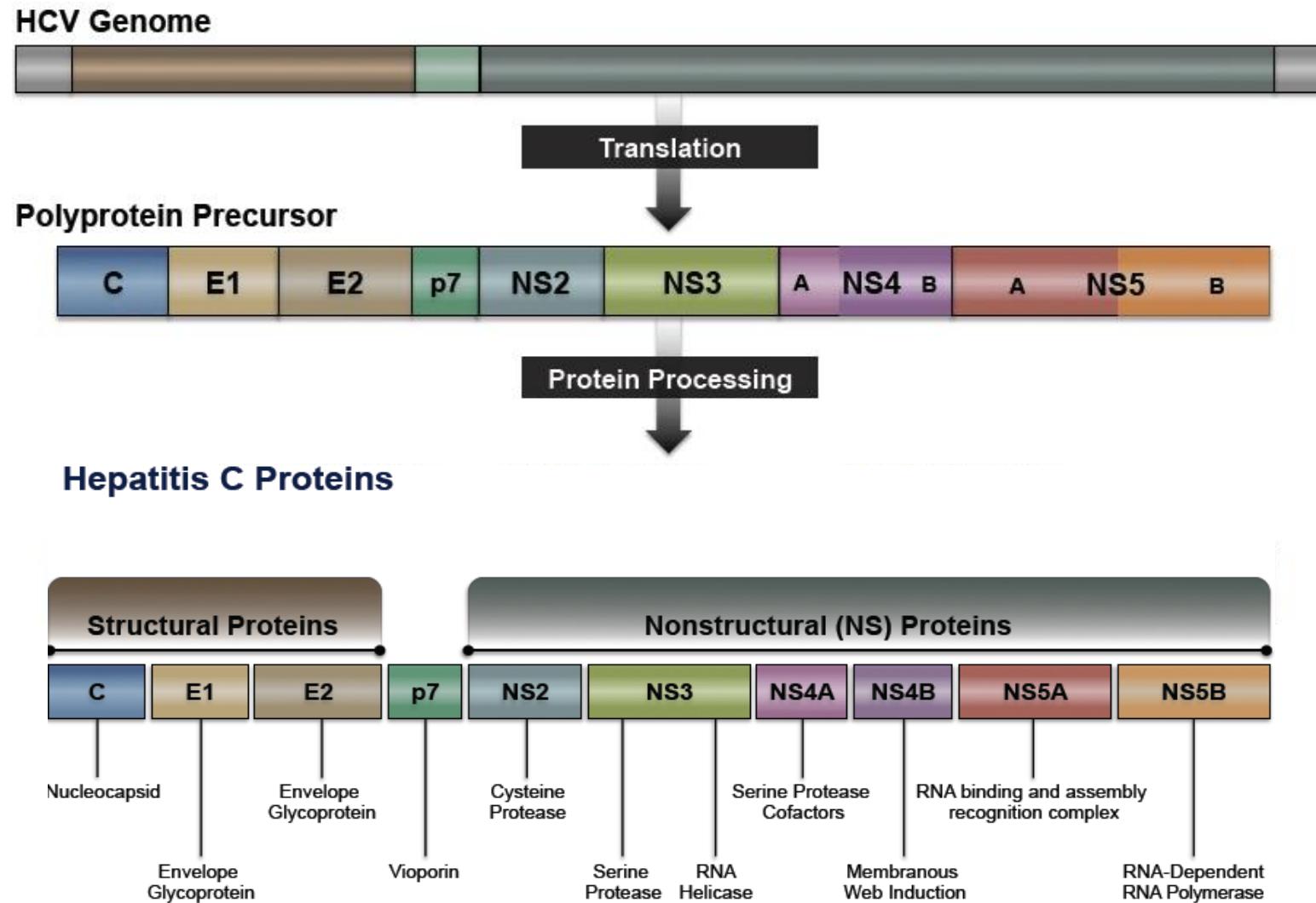
Charles Rice, USA Rockefeller University

# The HCV Replicon – in vitro system of HCV

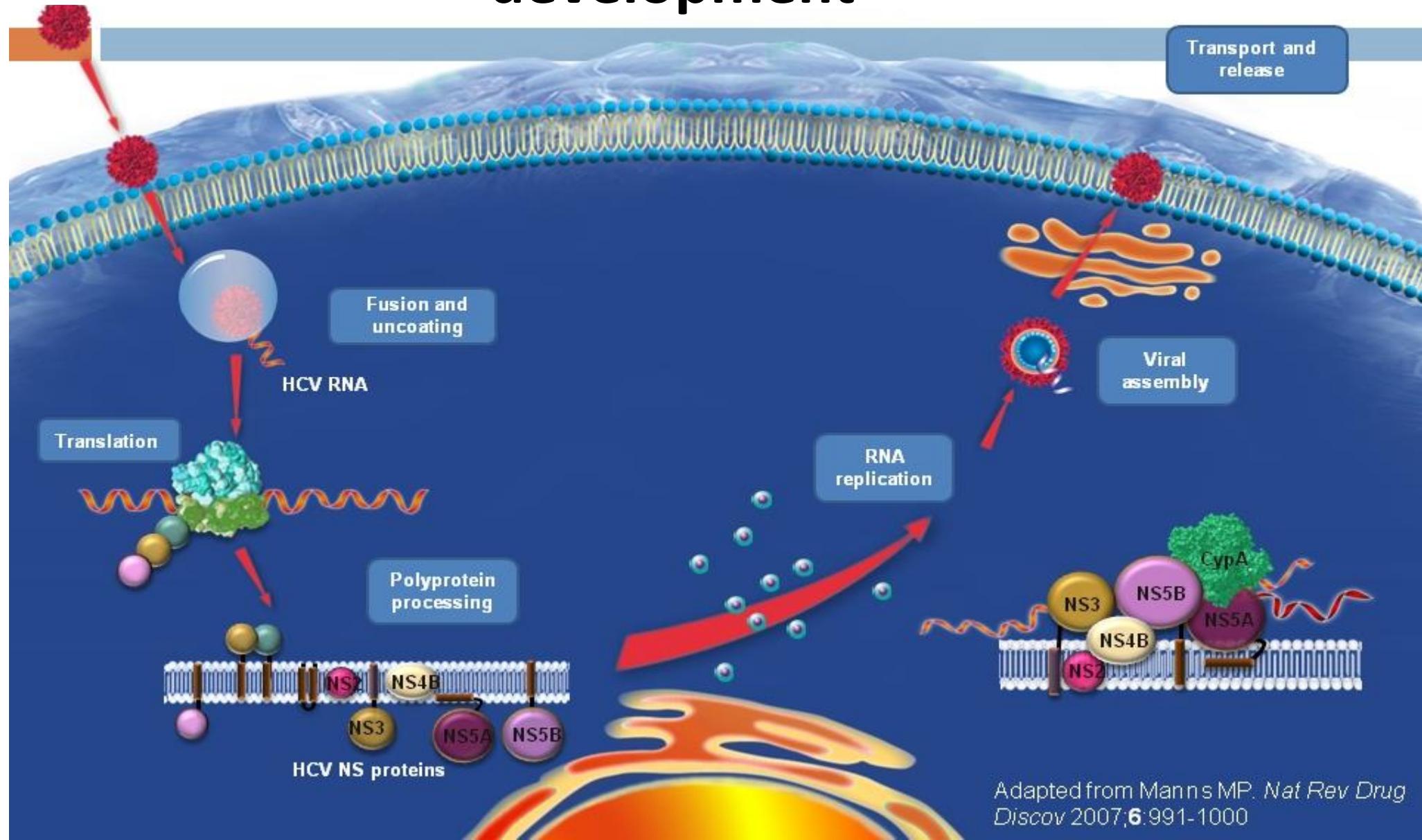


Bartenschlager and Rice, 2003

# Lifecycle: Viral Polyprotein

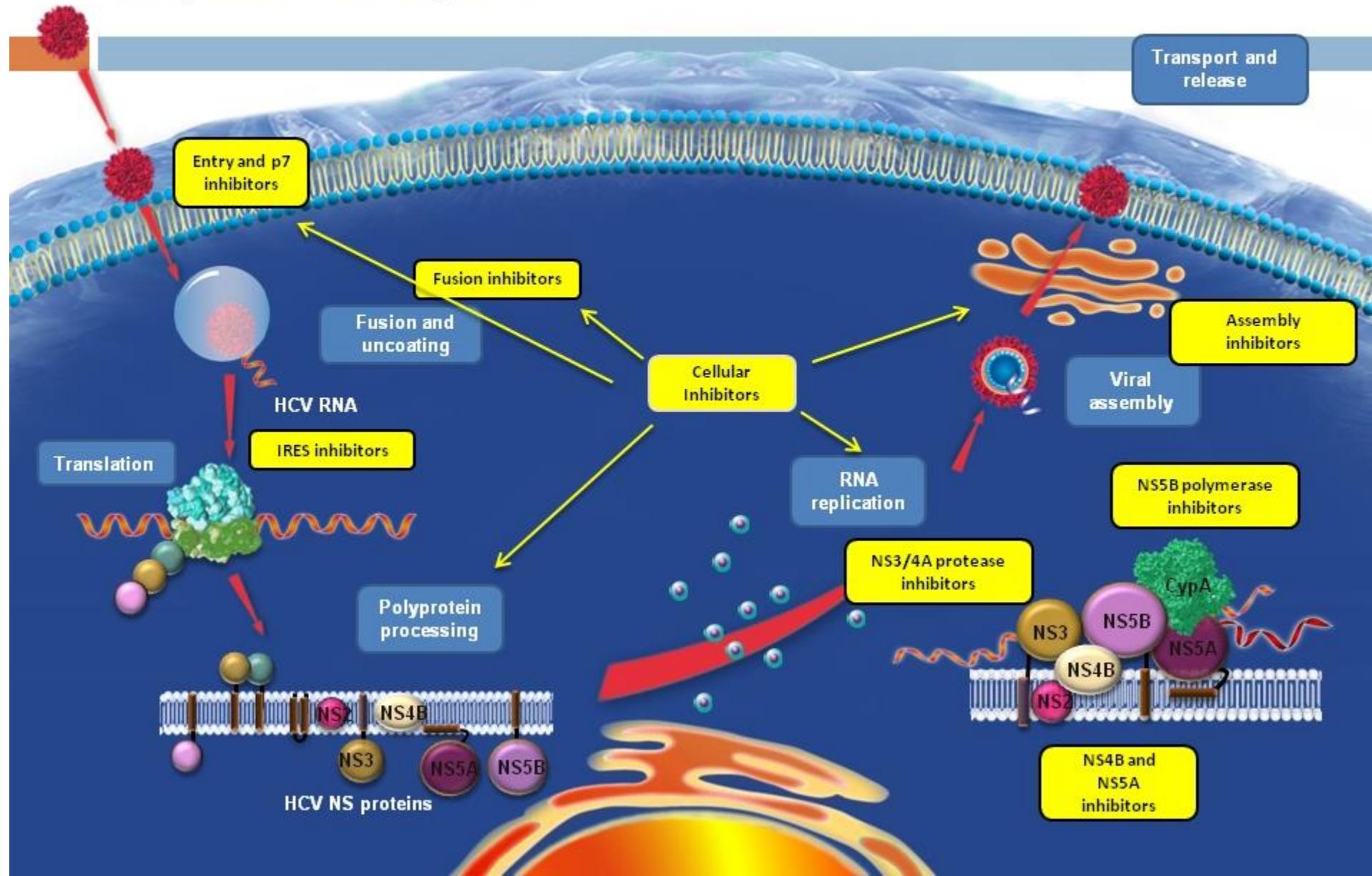


# Elucidating HCV Life Cycle and replicon system – key to drug development

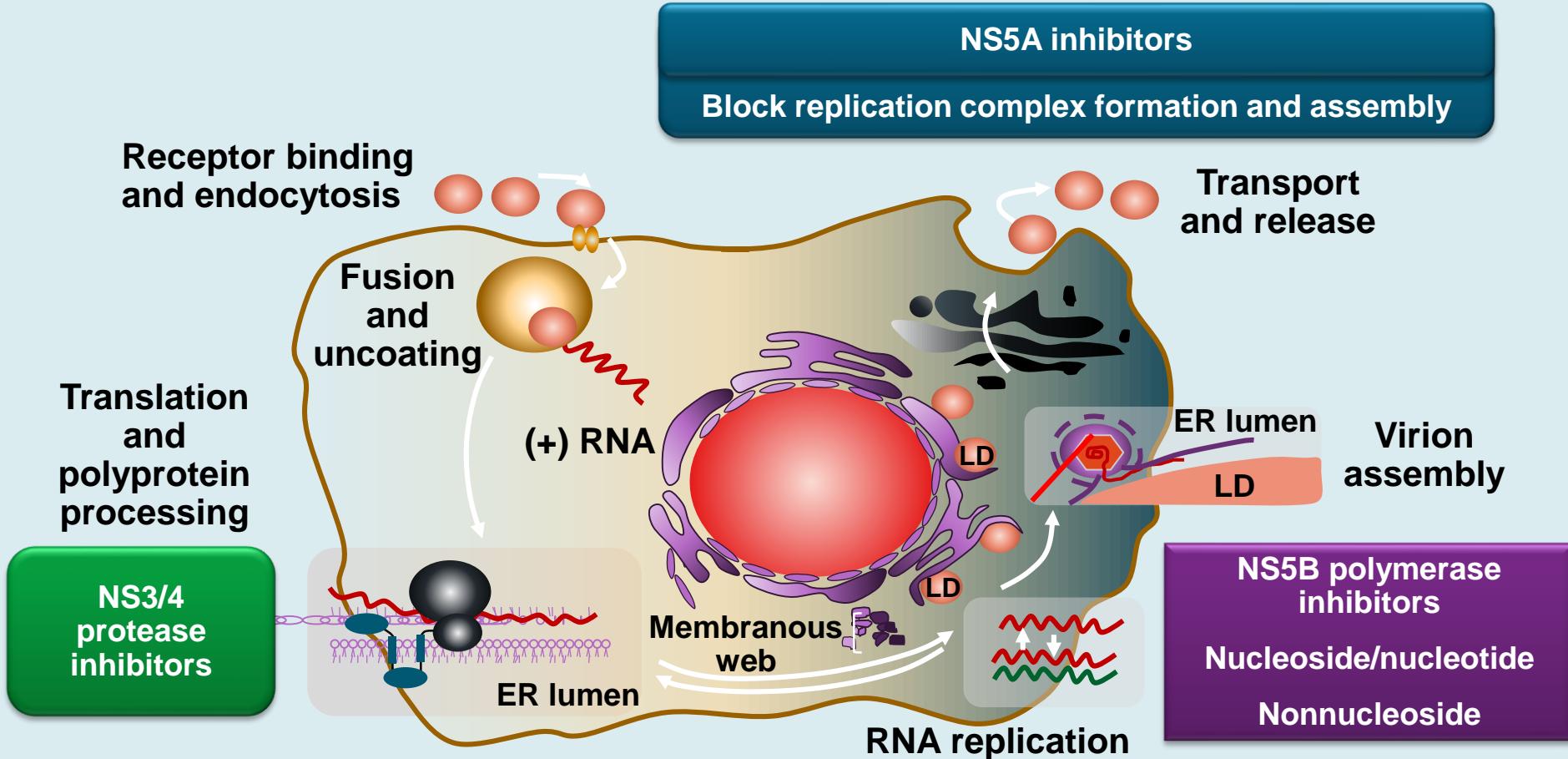


Adapted from Manns MP. *Nat Rev Drug Discov* 2007;6:991-1000

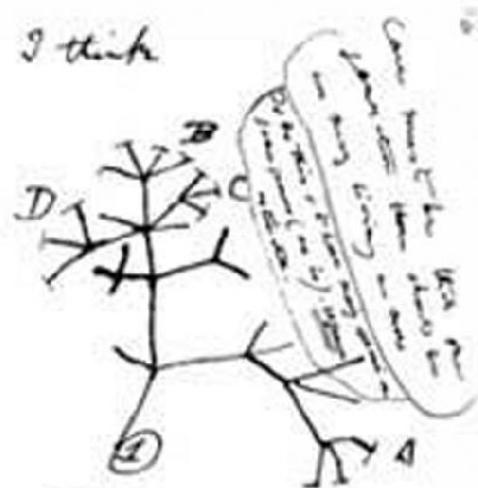
# Potential Therapeutic Targets in the HCV Replication Cycle



# HCV Lifecycle – DAA Targets

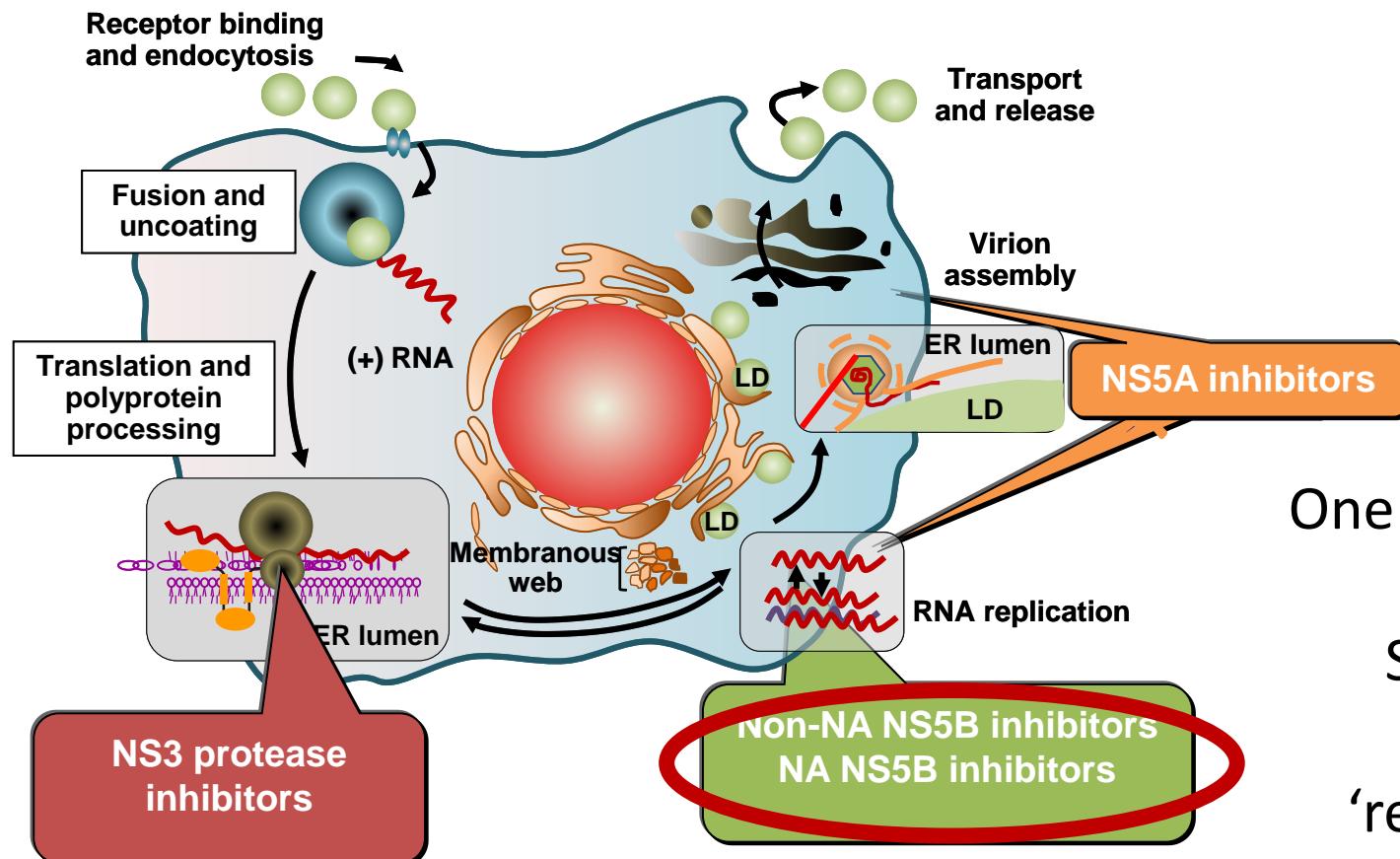


# Natural Selection takes over



The difference A + B. min.  
size & relation. C + D. the  
finch predation. B + D  
rather greater distribution  
than yours would be  
formed. - Henry Darwin

# DAAs that target different stages in the HCV lifecycle



One backbone is the  
nucleotide  
SOFOSBUVIR

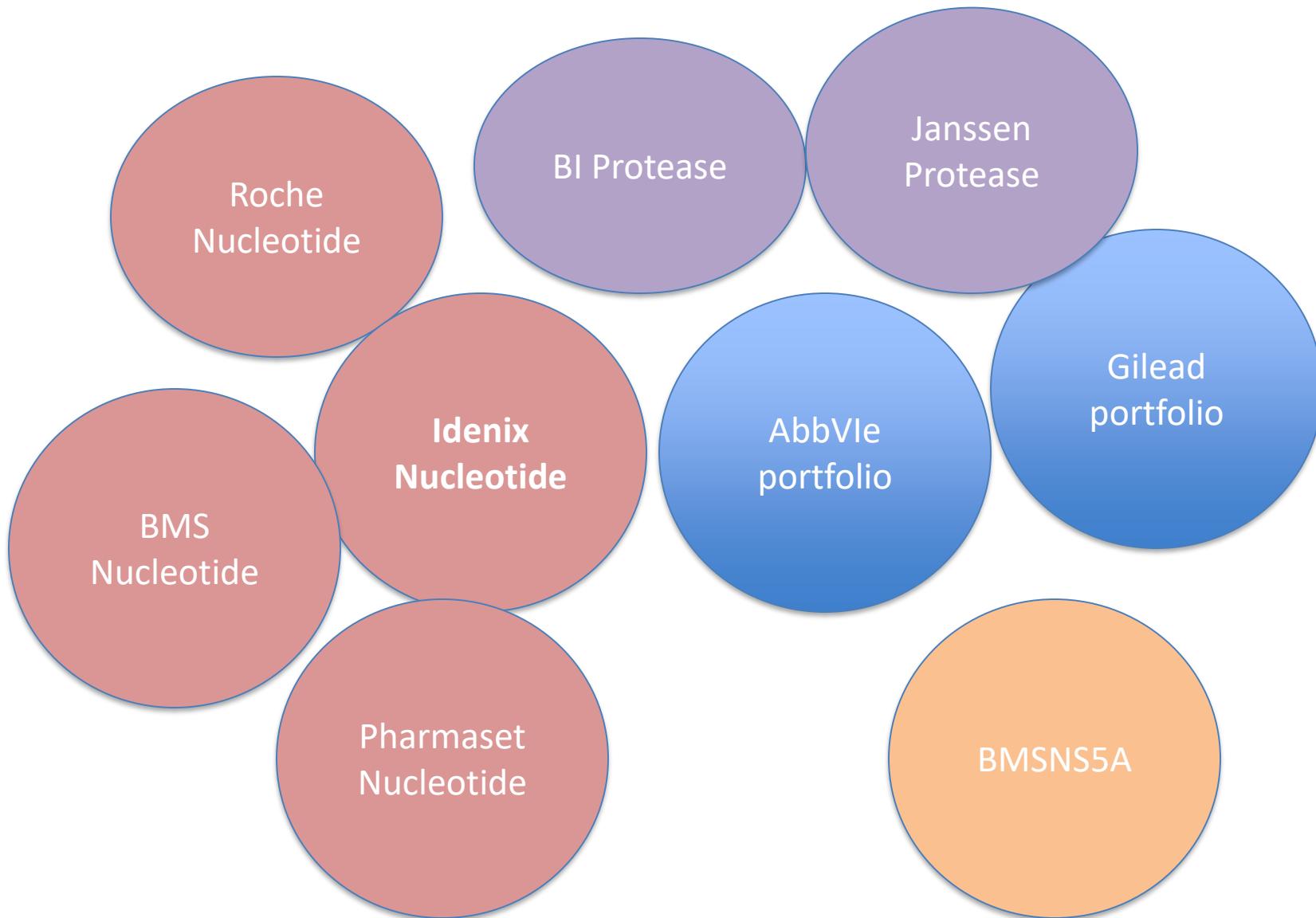
'resistance free'

# Sofosbuvir

- First NS5B protease inhibitor
- Discovery of its anti-HCV efficacy attributed to Michael Sofia
- Lead lab scientist at Pharmasset
- Pharmasset bought by Gilead in 2011 (\$11.2 billion USD)
- FDA registered in Dec 2013
- \$84 000 for 84 tablets
- Over 60,000 people were treated with sofosbuvir in its first 30 weeks in the USA
- \$10 billion within first year



# The Trials Began!



# Select DAAs in Clinical Development

	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III
<b>Protease Inhibitors</b>	ABT-450 ACH-1625 GS 9451 MK-5172 VX-985	BMS-650032 CTS-1027 Danoprevir GS 9256 IDX320 Vaniprevir	BI 201335 Boceprevir Telaprevir TMC435
<b>Nonnucleoside polymerase inhibitors</b>	BI 207127 IDX375	ABT-333 ABT-072 ANA598 BMS-791325 Filibuvir Tegobuvir VX-759 VX-222	
<b>Nucleoside polymerase inhibitors</b>		IDX184 PSI-7977 RG7128	
<b>NS5A inhibitors</b>	A-831 PPI-461	BMS-790052 BMS-824393 CF102	

## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

MAY 16, 2013

## Sofosbuvir for Previously Untreated Chronic Hepatitis C Infection

Eric Lawitz, M.D., Alessandra Mangia, M.D., David Wyles, M.D., Maribel Rodriguez-Torres, M.D., Tarek Hassanein, M.D., Stuart C. Gordon, M.D., Michael Schultz, M.D., Ph.D., Mitchell N. Davis, D.O., Zeid Kayali, M.D., K. Rajender Reddy, M.D., Ira M. Jacobson, M.D., Kris V. Kowdley, M.D., Lisa Nyberg, M.D., G. Mani Subramanian, M.D., Ph.D., Robert H. Hyland, D.Phil., Sarah Arterburn, M.S., Deyuan Jiang, Ph.D., John McNally, Ph.D., Diana Brainard, M.D., William T. Symonds, Pharm.D., John G. McHutchison, M.D., Aasim M. Sheikh, M.D., Zobair Younossi, M.D., M.P.H., and Edward J. Gane, M.D.\*

# The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ESTABLISHED IN 1812

MAY 16, 2013

VOL. 368 NO. 20

## Sofosbuvir for Hepatitis C Genotype 2 or 3 in Patients without Treatment Options

Ira M. Jacobson, M.D., Stuart C. Gordon, M.D., Kris V. Kowdley, M.D., Eric M. Yoshida, M.D., Maribel Rodriguez-Torres, M.D., Mark S. Sulkowski, M.D., Mitchell L. Shiffman, M.D., Eric Lawitz, M.D., Gregory Everson, M.D., Michael Bennett, M.D., Eugene Schiff, M.D., M. Tarek Al-Assi, M.D., G. Mani Subramanian, M.D., Ph.D., Di An, Ph.D., Ming Lin, Ph.D., John McNally, Ph.D., Diana Brainard, M.D., William T. Symonds, Pharm.D., John G. McHutchison, M.D., Keyur Patel, M.D., Jordan Feld, M.D., M.P.H., Stephen Pianko, M.D., Ph.D., and David R. Nelson, M.D.

Articles

 Sofosbuvir with pegylated interferon alfa-2a and ribavirin for treatment-naïve patients with hepatitis C genotype-1 infection (ATOMIC): an open-label, randomised, multicentre phase 2 trial

Kris V. Kowdley, Eric Lawitz, José Crespo, Tarek Hassanein, Mitchell N. Davis, Michael DeMato, David E. Berndsen, Norm Alphei, John M. Vierling, Stuart C. Gordon, José P. Anderson, Robert H. Hyland, Hadas Ovary-Sobol, Di An, Robert G. Hinterleitner, Efthalia Alabotsi, William T. Symonds, G. Mani Subramanian, Pharm.D., John G. McHutchison, M.D., Keyur Patel, M.D., Jordan Feld, M.D., M.P.H., Stephen Pianko, M.D., Ph.D., and David R. Nelson, M.D.

Lancet 2014; 383: 515-23

## Articles

## Sofosbuvir and ledipasvir fixed-dose combination with and without ribavirin in treatment-naïve and previously treated patients with genotype 1 hepatitis C virus infection (LONESTAR): an open-label, randomised, phase 2 trial



Eric Lawitz, Fred F. Poordad, Philip S. Pang, Robert H. Hyland, Xiao Ding, Hongmei Ma, William T. Symonds, John G. McHutchison, Fernando E. Membreño

## HCV Treatment — No More Room for Interferonologists?

Joost P.H. Drenth, M.D., Ph.D.

## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

N ENGL J MED 370;3 NEJM.ORG JANUARY 16, 2014

## Phase 2b Trial of Interferon-free Therapy for Hepatitis C Virus Genotype 1

Kris V. Kowdley, M.D., Eric Lawitz, M.D., Fred Poordad, M.D., Daniel E. Cohen, M.D., David R. Nelson, M.D., Stefan Zeuzem, M.D., Gregory T. Everson, M.D., Paul Kwo, M.D., Graham R. Foster, F.C.R.P., Mark S. Sulkowski, M.D., Wangang Xie, Ph.D., Tami Pilot-Matias, Ph.D., George Liossis, B.A., Lois Larsen, Ph.D., Amit Khatri, Ph.D., Thomas Podsafecki, M.D., and Barry Bernstein, M.D.

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Treatment of HCV Infection by Targeting MicroRNA

Harry L.A. Janssen, M.D., Ph.D., Hendrik W. Reesink, M.D., Ph.D., Eric J. Lawitz, M.D., Stefan Zeuzem, M.D., Maribel Rodriguez-Torres, M.D., Keyur Patel, M.D., Adriana J. van der Meer, M.D., Amy K. Patick, Ph.D., Alice Chen, B.A., Yi Zhou, Ph.D., Robert Persson, Ph.D., Barney D. King, M.D., Sakari Kauppinen, Ph.D., Arthur A. Levin, Ph.D., and Michael R. Hodges, M.D.

## REVIEW ARTICLE

## DRUG THERAPY

## Current and Future Therapies for Hepatitis C Virus Infection

T. Jake Liang, M.D., and Marc G. Ghany, M.D., M.H.Sc.

## Once-Daily Simeprevir (TMC435) With Pegylated Interferon and Ribavirin in Treatment-Naïve Genotype 1 Hepatitis C: The Randomized PILLAR Study

Michael W. Fried,<sup>1</sup> Maria Buti,<sup>2</sup> Gregory J. Dore,<sup>3</sup> Robert Flisiak,<sup>4</sup> Peter Ferenci,<sup>5</sup> Ira Jacobson,<sup>6</sup> Patrick Marcellin,<sup>7</sup> Michael Manns,<sup>8</sup> Igor Nikitin,<sup>9</sup> Fred Poordad,<sup>10</sup> Morris Sherman,<sup>11</sup> Stefan Zeuzem,<sup>12</sup> Jane Scott,<sup>13</sup> Leen Gilles,<sup>14</sup> Oliver Lenz,<sup>14</sup> Monika Peeters,<sup>14</sup> Vanitha Sekar,<sup>15</sup> Goedele De Smedt,<sup>14</sup> and Maria Beumont-Mauvié<sup>14</sup>

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Daclatasvir plus Sofosbuvir for Previously Treated or Untreated Chronic HCV Infection

Mark S. Sulkowski, M.D., David F. Gardiner, M.D., Maribel Rodriguez-Torres, M.D., K. Rajender Reddy, M.D., Tarek Hassanein, M.D., Ira Jacobson, M.D., Eric Lawitz, M.D., Anna S. Lok, M.D., Federico Hinestrosa, M.D., Paul J. Thuluvath, M.D., Howard Schwartz, M.D., David R. Nelson, M.D., Gregory T. Everson, M.D., n Wind-Rotolo, Ph.D., Shu-Pang Huang, Ph.D., Min Gao, Ph.D., z, Ph.D., Fiona McPhee, Ph.D., Diane Sherman, M.S., William Symonds, Pharm.D., Claudio Pasquinelli, M.D., Ph.D., asela, Pharm.D., Ph.D., for the AI444040 Study Group

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

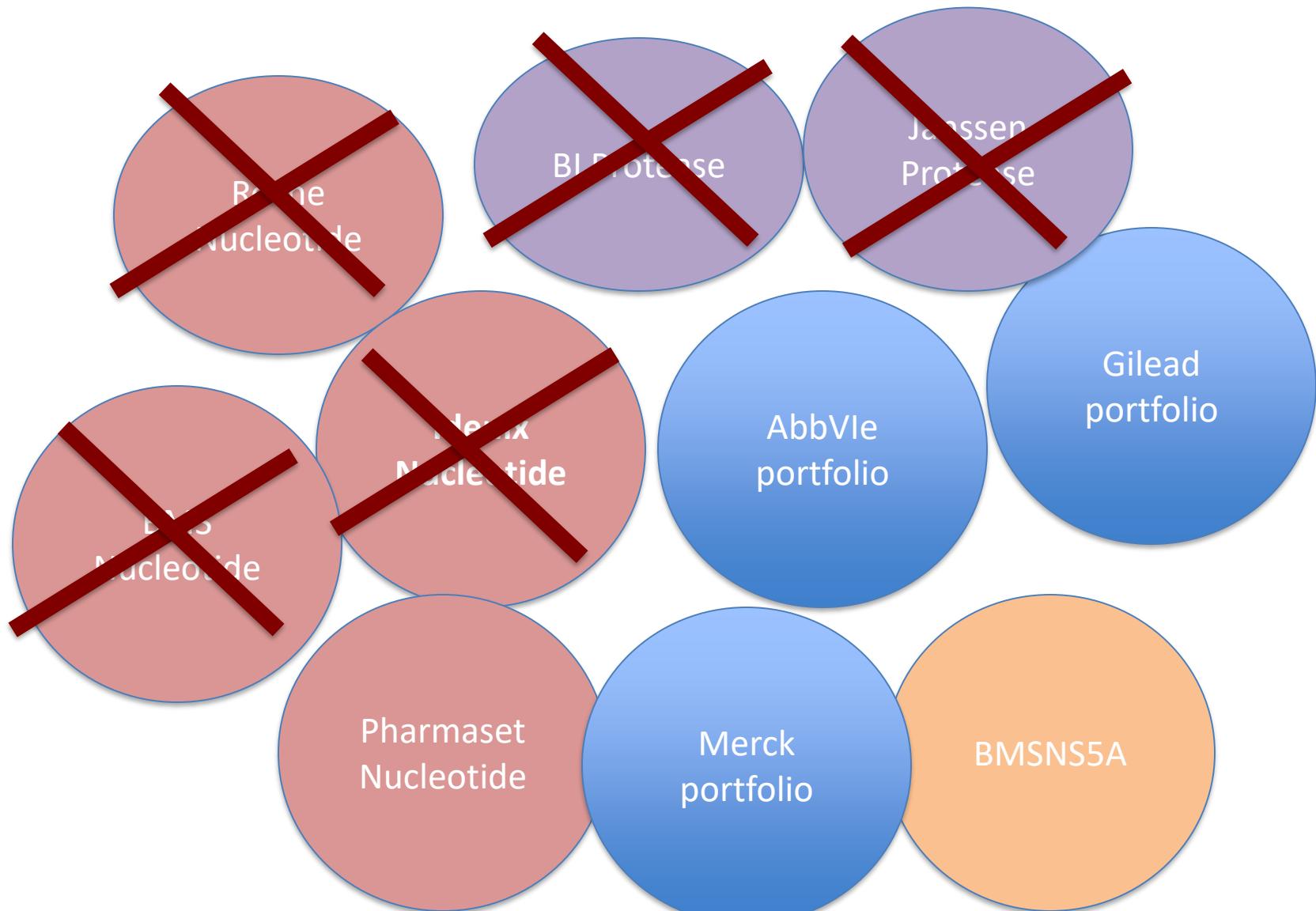
## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Faldaprevir and Deleobuvir for HCV Genotype 1 Infection

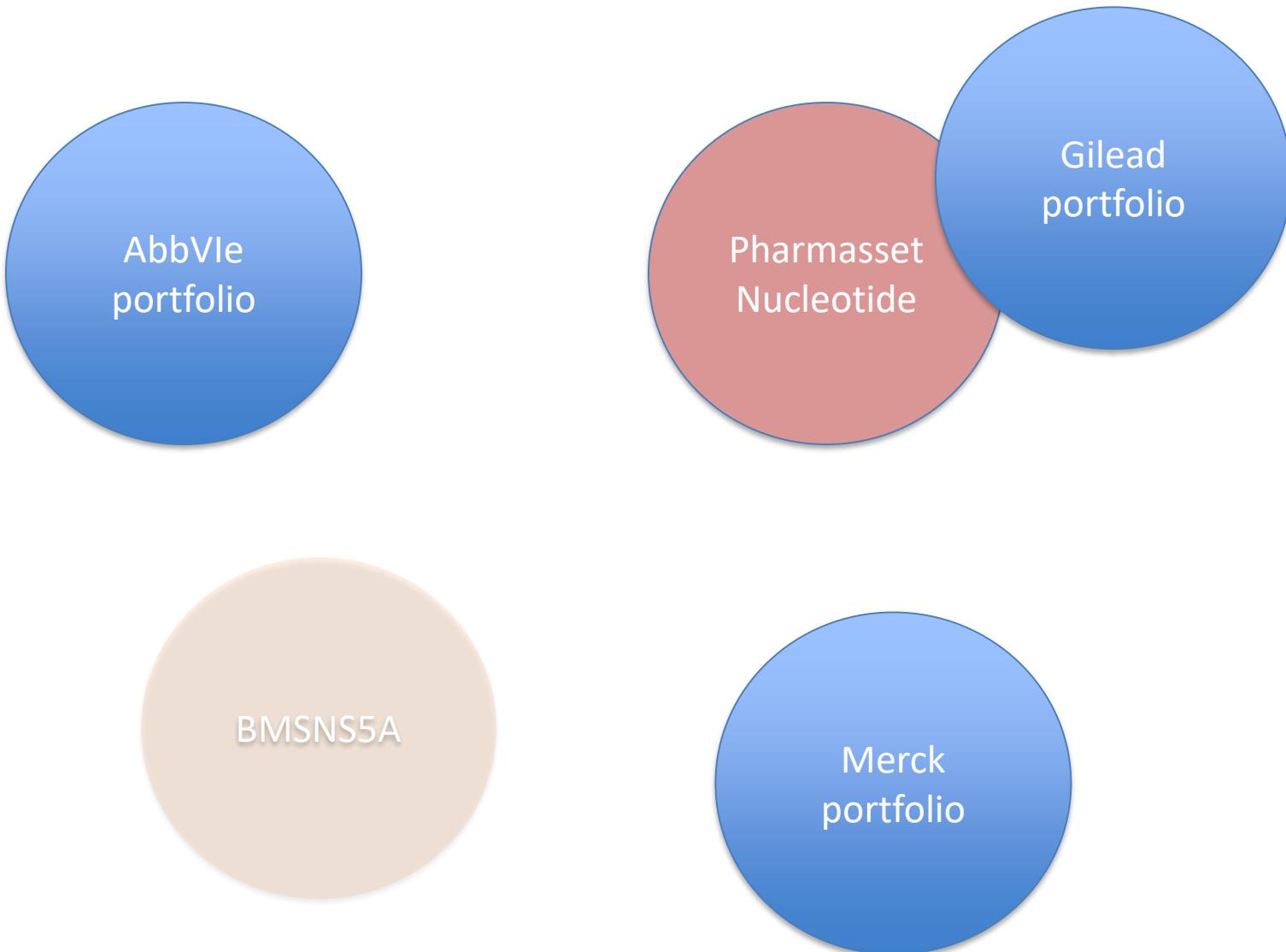
Stefan Zeuzem, M.D., Vincent Soriano, M.D., Ph.D., Tarik Asselah, M.D., Ph.D., Jean-Pierre Bronowicki, M.D., Ph.D., Ansgar W. Lohse, M.D., Beat Müllhaupt, M.D., Marcus Schuchmann, M.D., Marc Bourlière, M.D., Maria Buti, M.D., Stuart K. Roberts, M.D., Ed J. Gane, M.D., Jerry O. Stern, M.D., Richard Vinisko, M.A., George Kukolj, Ph.D., John-Paul Gallivan, Ph.D., Wulf-Otto Böcker, M.D., and Federico J. Mensa, M.D.

N ENGL J MED 369;7 NEJM.ORG AUGUST 15, 2013

# Selection time



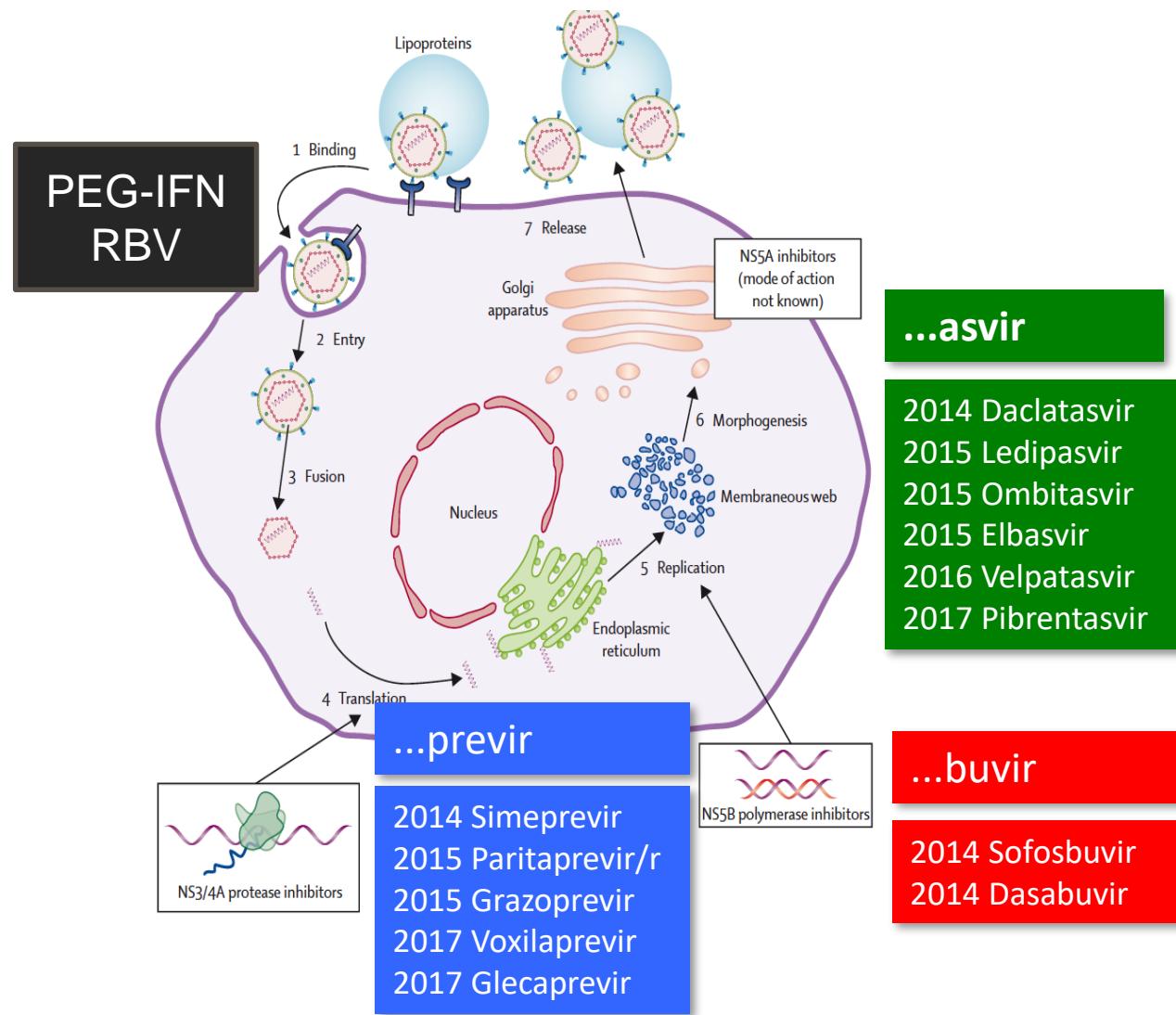
# The Winners Emerge



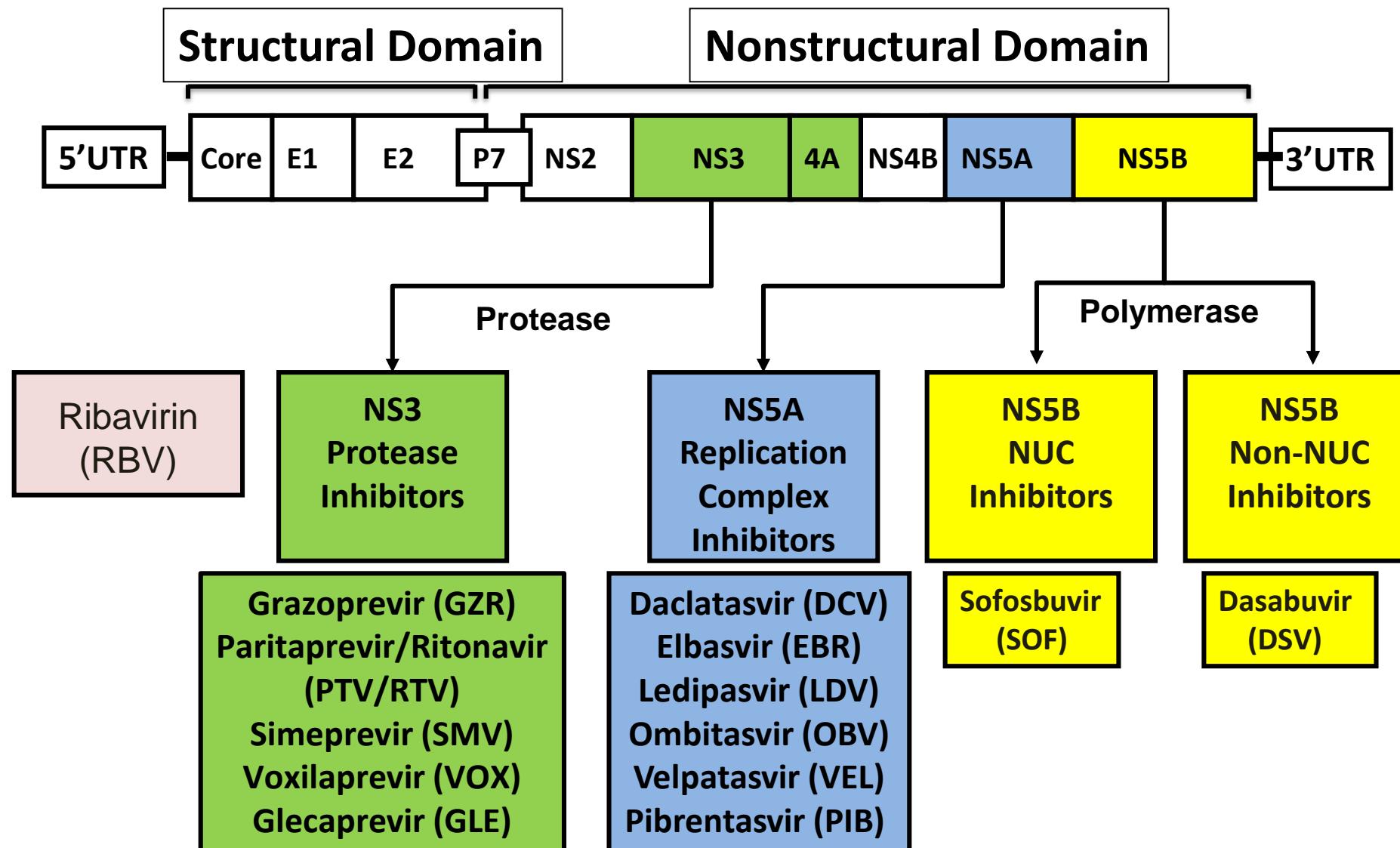
# Oral DAA Regimens – Guiding Principles

- **Combine drugs from different classes**
  - Protease (NS3/4A) inhibitors
  - Polymerase (NS5B) inhibitors
  - NS5A inhibitors
- Multiple drugs combined to produce greater efficacy and reduce risk of viral resistance (~HIV ART principles)

# HCV replication cycle and new direct acting antiviral agents (DAA)



# Approved DAAs From Multiple Classes: 2018



**SVR Rates > 95% for All Recommended  
First-line HCV Regimens**

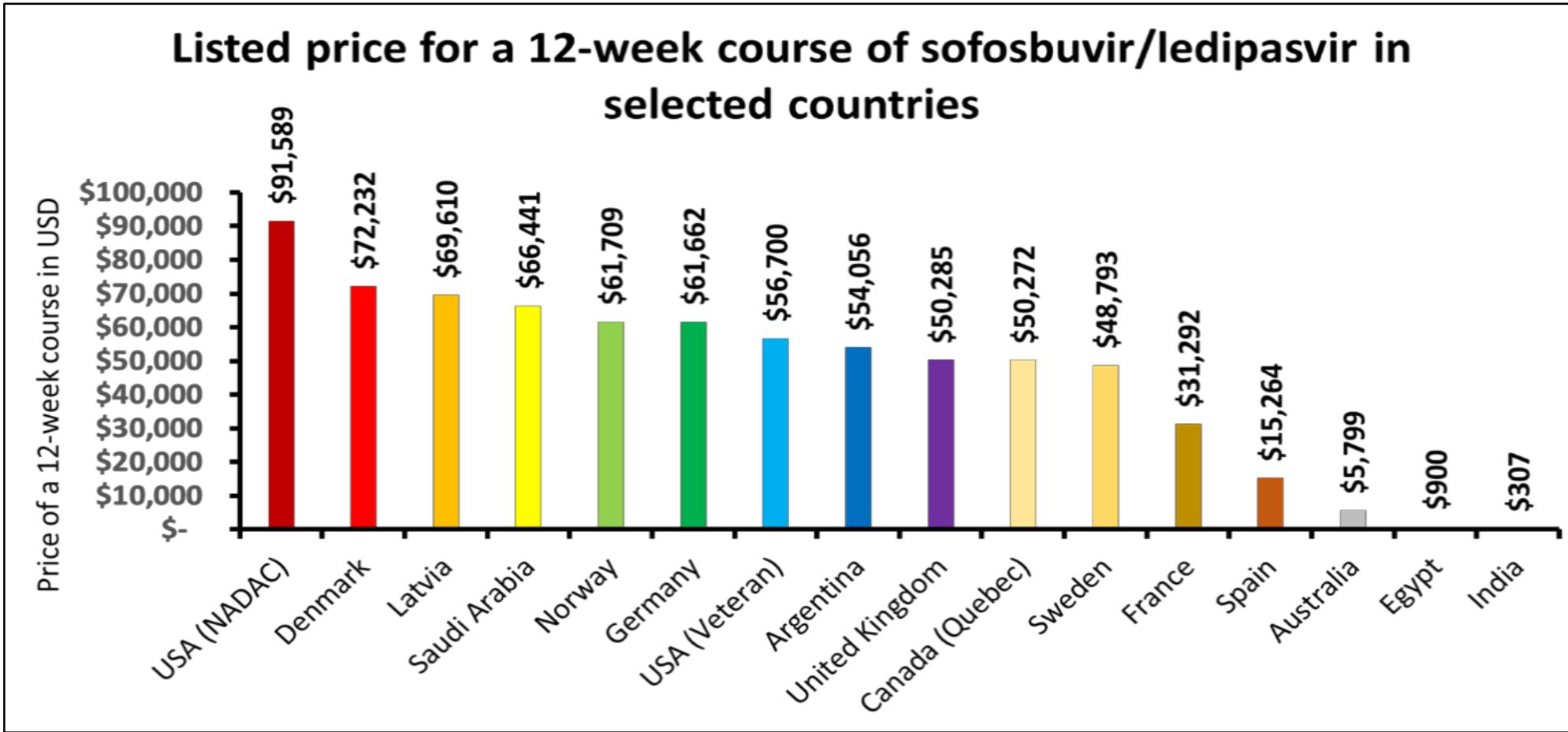
# ‘Perfectovir’

- We now have almost perfect regimens
- Are they really perfect?

# The drugs are almost perfect

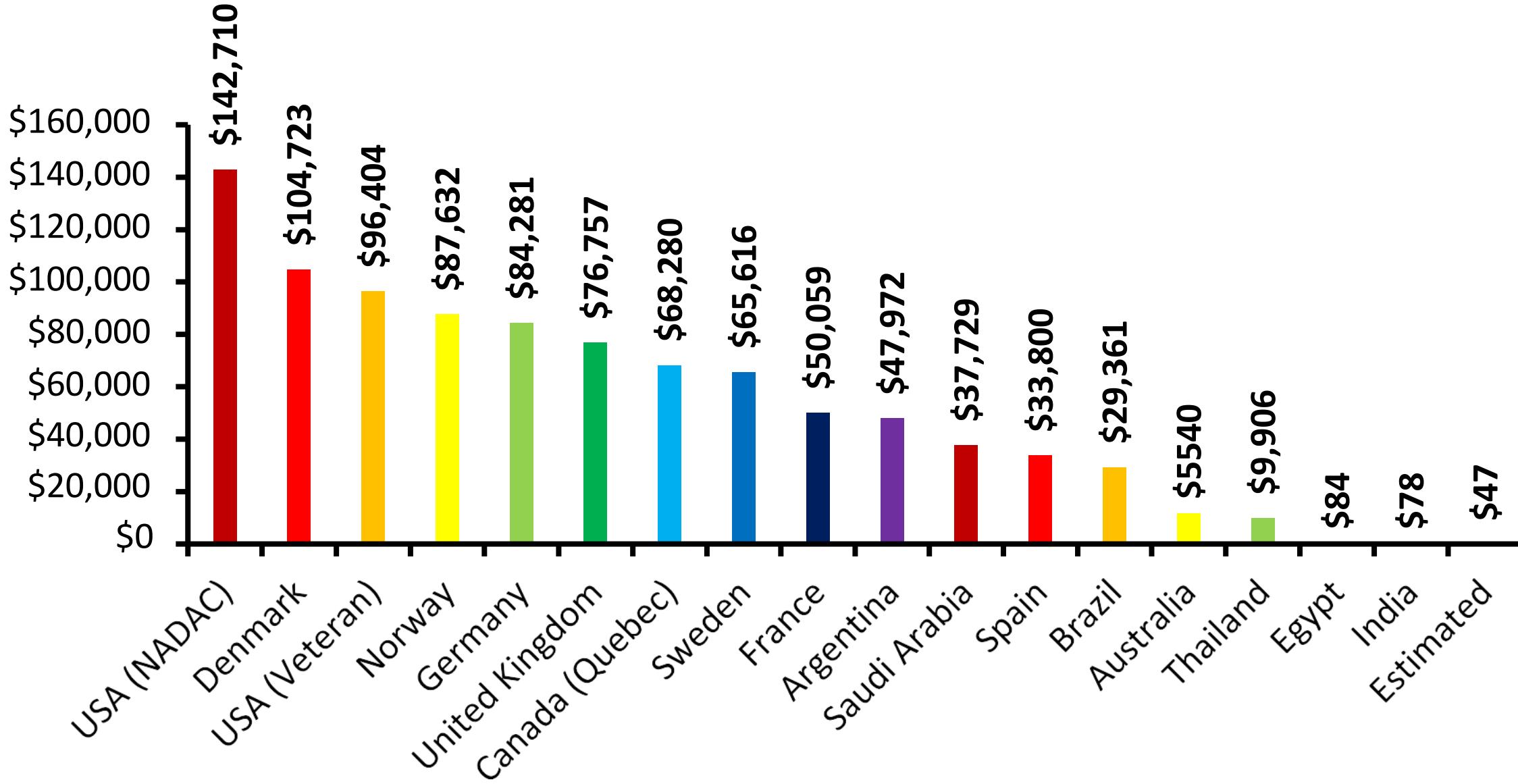
- The drugs cure nearly everyone
- They stop people getting liver cancer, dying of cirrhosis
- People feel better with hep C cured!!!
- Challenge : get it out there and make people better and eliminate hep C!

# Treatment is now more affordable

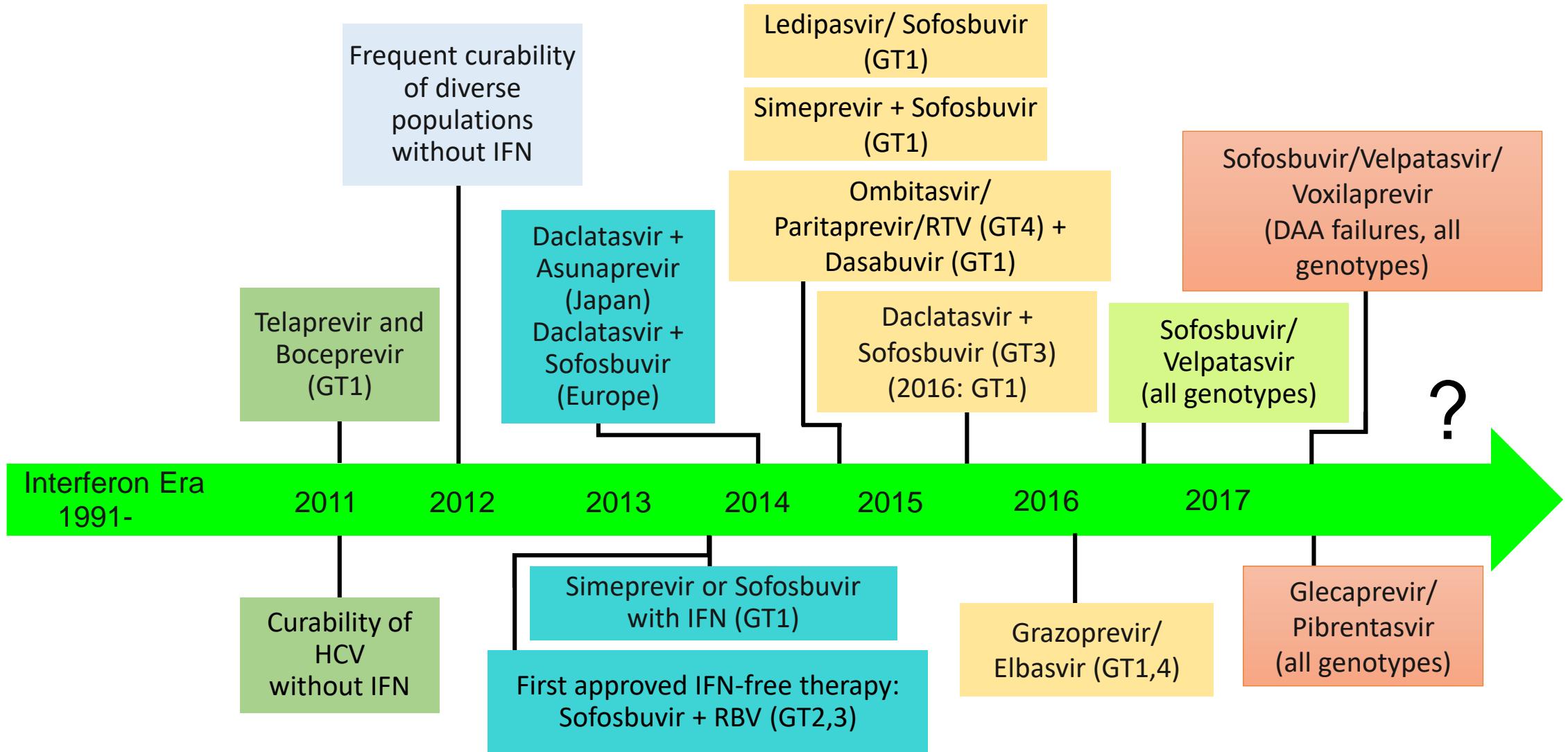


# Lowest prices of SOF/DCV in selected countries

Price of a 12-week course in USD



# The (Re)Evolution of HCV Therapy



# HCV can now be treated successfully

- Very high SVR rates; therapies highly tolerable
- All-oral therapy for almost every patient
- Treatment generally 8-12 weeks

