



# **Topline Data from Phase 2 IRIS Trial Evaluating ML-004 in Autism Spectrum Disorder**

June 22, 2026

# Safe Harbor and Forward-Looking Statements

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# Agenda

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	<b>Executive Summary and Key Takeaways for ML-004</b>	Chris Kroeger, M.D.	Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer
	<b>Phase 2 IRIS Study Results</b>	Erin Foff, M.D., Ph.D.	Chief Medical Officer
	<b>Unmet Medical Need in ASD Irritability</b>	Chris Kroeger, M.D.	Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer
	<b>Closing Remarks</b>	Chris Kroeger, M.D.	Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer
	<b>Q&amp;A Session</b>	All	

# Summary of IRIS Phase 2 Topline Results



## Program Rationale

- **ML-004 is an IR/ER reformulation of the 5-HT<sub>1B/1D</sub> agonist zolmitriptan**
  - Zolmitriptan demonstrates activity in both sociability and irritability/aggression animal models
    - Activation of 5-HT<sub>1B</sub> receptors in the nucleus accumbens recapitulates the prosocial effects of MDMA
    - Aggression mechanism involves suppression of a subset of striatal D1-MSNs
- Based on preclinical findings, IRIS was designed as an exploratory study to evaluate multiple clinical endpoints in ASD

## Efficacy Observations

- **IRIS<sup>(1)</sup> did not meet its primary endpoint in social communication deficits associated with ASD**
- **Clinically meaningful improvement observed in adolescents with moderate-to-severe baseline irritability (ABC-I  $\geq$  16) across both caregiver- and clinician-rated scales, despite small sample sizes**
  - A prespecified analysis in adolescents with baseline ABC-I  $\geq$  16 demonstrated meaningful improvement on the care partner-reported ABC-I vs. placebo at EOMD (ES of 1.33; nominal p=0.013)
  - Consistent with this finding, an analysis of the clinician-rated CGI-I Irritability in the same subpopulation demonstrated clinically meaningful improvement vs. placebo (ES of 1.08; nominal p=0.036)
  - Treatment effects were greater among adolescents with greater levels of baseline irritability

## Safety and Tolerability

- **ML-004 was generally well-tolerated, with no severe or serious adverse events in the active treatment arm and potentially meaningful differentiation from standard of care atypical antipsychotics**
  - No extrapyramidal events were observed, and rates of sedation/somnolence were low
  - Mean weight gain was lower with ML-004 than with placebo

IR/ER = immediate release / extended release; MDMA = 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine; ASD = autism spectrum disorder; ABC-I = Aberrant Behavior Checklist-Irritability; EOMD = end of maintenance dosing; ES = effect size; CGI-I = Clinical Global Impression-Improvement; 5-HT = 5-hydroxytryptamine (serotonin).

(1) Also known as ML-004-002 / NCT05081245.

# Potential Future Development Considerations



## Differentiation Opportunity

- Effect sizes observed in adolescents with moderate irritability are at/above those observed in clinical trials with antipsychotics currently approved for the treatment of irritability in ASD
- Tolerability findings suggest potential differentiation from D<sub>2</sub>-based atypical antipsychotics

## Development Pathway

- FDA approval precedents support use of the ABC-I scale in this setting <sup>(1)</sup>
- Following a full review of the data, the Company expects to engage with the FDA in an EOP2 meeting to determine the future development path

## Meaningful Unmet Need

- The total addressable market for irritability in autism is large, and the unmet medical need remains high due to the limitations of existing therapies

Data support potential development of ML-004 for irritability associated with ASD, an indication with high unmet need and an established regulatory path; next steps will be guided by upcoming regulatory interactions

EOP2 = End-of-Phase 2; FDA = U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

(1) Approval precedents include risperidone, approved in 2006, and aripiprazole, approved in 2009, for irritability associated with ASD.

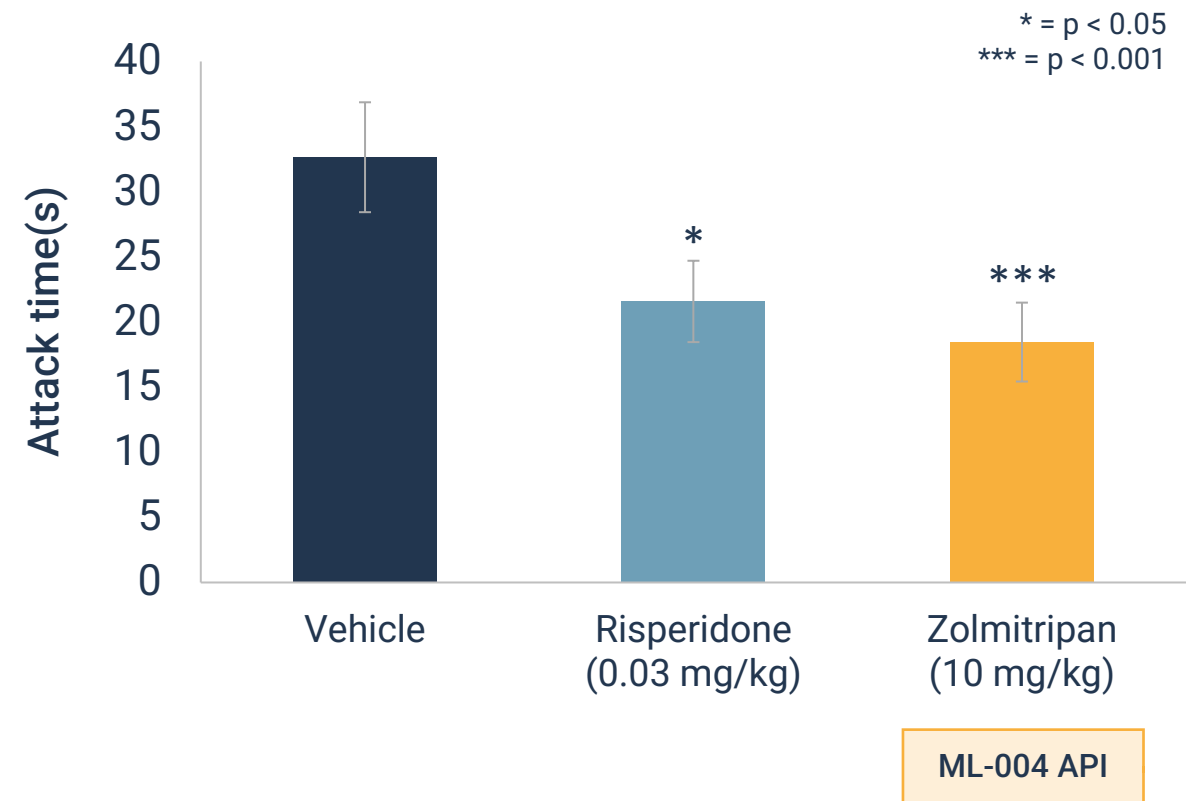
# ML-004 Preclinical Findings in Aggression



## Translational Rationale

- Decreased serotonin or loss of 5-HT<sub>1B</sub> receptor function is linked to aggression in mice and humans <sup>(1)(2)(3)(4)</sup>
- Increased serotonin or activation of 5-HT<sub>1B</sub> receptors inhibits brain circuits associated with aggression <sup>(2)</sup>
- At clinically-relevant exposures, zolmitriptan, the API of ML-004, reduces aggression in mice to a similar degree as risperidone, an approved treatment for irritability associated with ASD
- **These findings established the rationale for evaluating irritability-related behaviors in the Phase 2 IRIS study**

## Resident Intruder Aggression Assay



API = active pharmaceutical ingredient.

(1) Saudou et al, 1994

(2) Zhang et al, 2026

(3) Conner et al, 2010; Hakulinen et al, 2013

(4) da Cunha-Bang et al, 2017

# Phase 2 Results

Erin Foff, M.D. | Chief Medical Officer

# Phase 2 Study Background and Design



## Background and Key Objectives

- IRIS was designed as an exploratory signal-finding study evaluating ML-004 in adolescents and adults with ASD
- Primary objective was to evaluate ML-004 vs. placebo for social communication deficits, a new indication for which there are no approved therapies
- Potential impact on irritability was a key secondary outcome measure due to strong preclinical findings
- **Study included several signal-finding considerations:**
  - Primary outcome measure without demonstrated treatment response: ABI-SC Domain Score
  - Flexible dosing allowing for exposure response analyses
  - Definition of positive efficacy signal: consistent, biologically plausible, and clinically coherent patterns across endpoints, not statistical significance alone

## IRIS Study Design

- Multi-center, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial evaluating the efficacy, safety, and tolerability of ML-004
- **161 participants randomized 1:1 to ML-004 or placebo**
  - 102 adolescents ages 12-17; 59 adults ages 18-45
- **Once-daily oral bilayer IR/ER tablet formulation with flexible dosing paradigm**
  - Target maintenance dose of 48 mg or 72 mg, based on weight/contraceptive use (24 mg allowed based on tolerability)
- **Primary endpoint:** Change in ABI-SC Domain Score from baseline to end of maintenance dosing (EOMD) <sup>(1)</sup>
- **Key Secondary endpoints:**
  - CGI-I (global) and CFB to week 12 in the ABI-C
  - Change in ABC-I score from baseline to EOMD<sup>1</sup> for patients with  $\geq$  moderate irritability at baseline

ABI-SC = Autism Behavioral Inventory-Social Communication; ABI-C = Autism Behavioral Inventory-Clinician Score;  
CFB = Change from Baseline; CGI-I = Clinician Global Impression-Improvement.

(1) Double-blind baseline to start of maintenance dosing was ~9-12 days; maintenance dose period was 12 weeks.

# Efficacy Observations Across Endpoints



	Primary Endpoint	Key Secondary Endpoints			Other <sup>(1)</sup>
Scale	ABI-SC	CGI-I	ABI-C	ABC-I	CGI-I Irritability
Rater	Care-partner reported	Clinician-rated	Clinician-rated	Care-partner reported	Clinician-rated
Domain Assessed	Social Communication	Global Autism	Global Autism	Irritability (with baseline ABC-I <sub>≥</sub> 16)	Irritability (with baseline ABC-I <sub>≥</sub> 16)
Result	No statistical separation	No statistical separation	No statistical separation	<p><b>Overall:</b> Large ES of 0.64, not nominally statistically significant</p> <p><b>Adolescents (Prespecified):</b> Clinically meaningful improvement vs. PBO → ES of 1.33, nominal p=0.013</p>	<p><b>Overall:</b> Large ES of 0.61, not nominally statistically significant</p> <p><b>Adolescents:</b> Clinically meaningful improvement vs. PBO → ES of 1.09, nominal p=0.036</p>

Greater treatment effect in adolescent participants with higher baseline severity

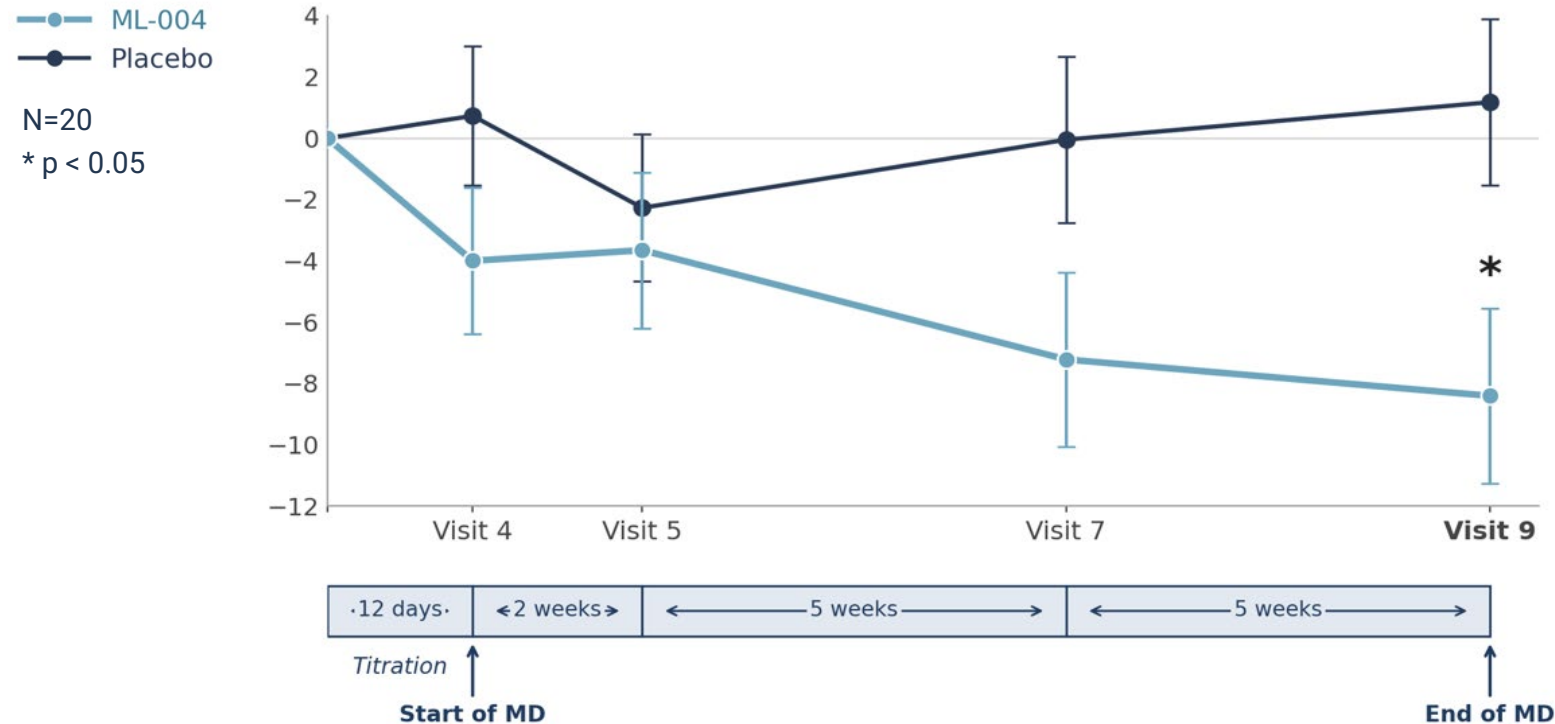
PBO = placebo.  
 (1) There were numerous protocol-defined secondary and exploratory endpoints.

# ABC-I: Prespecified Adolescent Subgroup

Includes Subjects with ABC-I  $\geq 16$  at Baseline



## Change From Baseline in ABC-I (LS Mean Difference)



	Visit 7	Visit 9
LS Mean Difference vs. PBO	-7.2	-9.6
P-value	0.052	0.013 *
Effect Size	1.00	1.33

- Numerical separation from PBO emerged early and increased through the end of maintenance dosing
- Large treatment effect at EOMD with a 9.6-point PBO-adjusted improvement

LS = least squares.

Note: Negative treatment deltas favor active treatment; effect size presented as an absolute value. Full Analysis set (FAS): The FAS includes all randomized subjects who received at least 1 dose of study drug after randomization and have DB Baseline and at least 1 post-DB Baseline assessment.

# Irritability Outcomes

Includes Subjects with ABC-I  $\geq 16$  at Baseline



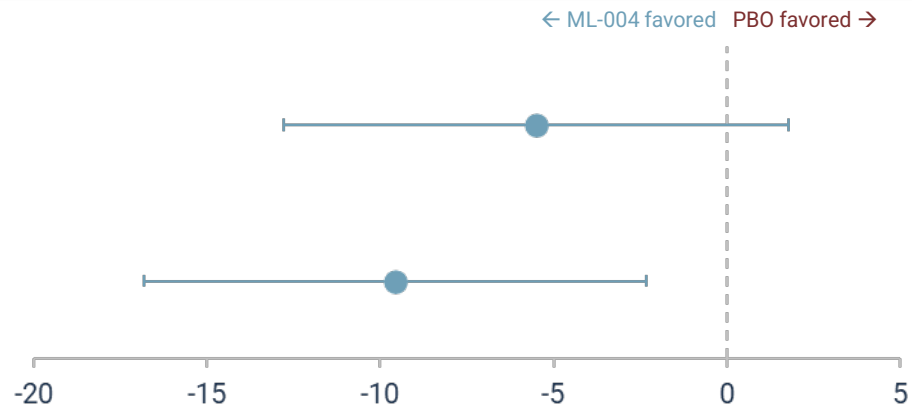
Two measures of irritability assessed by different raters

**ABC-I Subscale (1)**  
Care partner-reported

## LS Mean Difference vs. Placebo (95% CI), by Scale and Age Group

**Total**  
N = 26

**Adolescent**  
N = 20

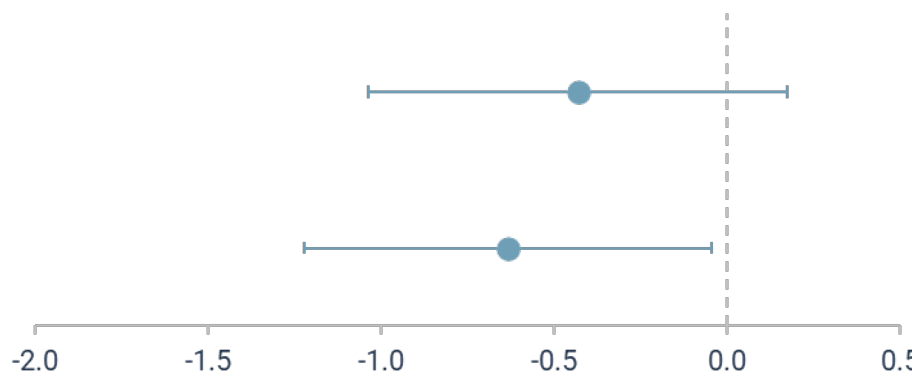


LS Mean Diff. [95% CI]	Effect Size	P-value (* p < 0.05)
-5.5 [-12.8, 1.8]	0.64	0.131
-9.6 [-16.8, -2.3]	1.33	<b>0.013 *</b>

**CGI-I Irritability Domain (2)**  
Clinician-reported

**Total**  
N = 26

**Adolescent**  
N = 20



-0.4 [-1.0, 0.2]	0.61	0.153
-0.6 [-1.2, -0.0]	1.08	<b>0.036 *</b>

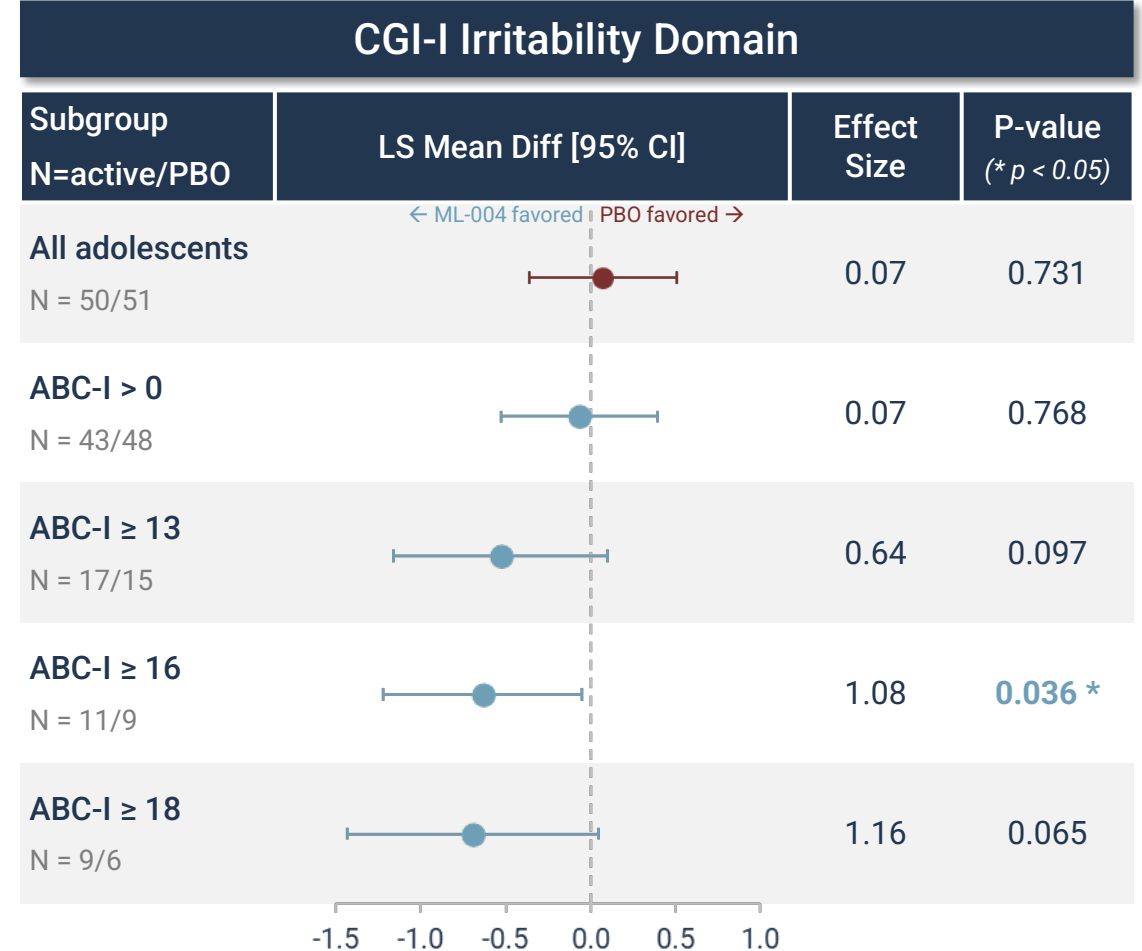
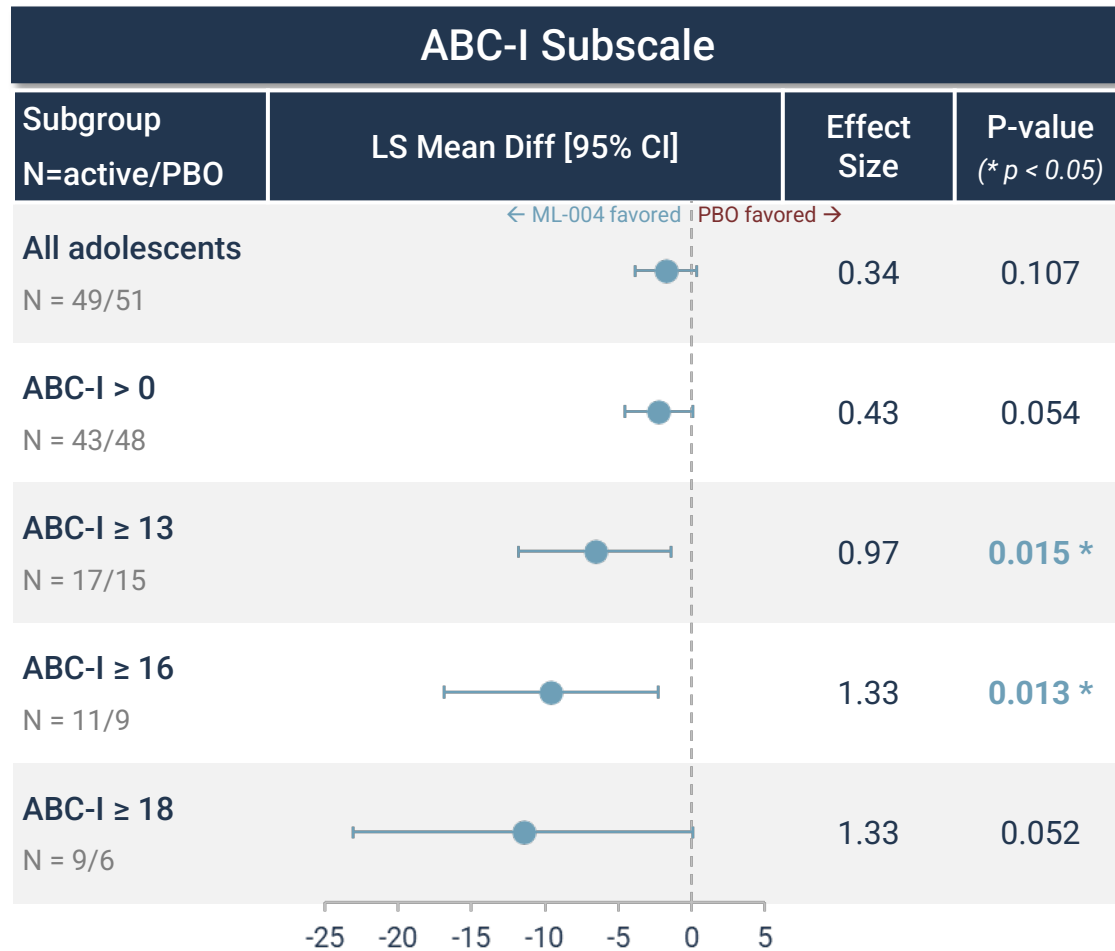
Note: Negative treatment deltas favor active treatment; effect size presented as an absolute value. Full Analysis set (FAS): The FAS includes all randomized subjects who received at least 1 dose of study drug after randomization and have DB Baseline and at least 1 post-DB Baseline assessment.

(1) ABC-I in the whole population was a key secondary endpoint evaluated in IRIS study; evaluation of change in the adolescent population was a prespecified endpoint

(2) CGI-I Global is included in labels for approved therapies.

# Change From Baseline to End of Maintenance Dose

## Adolescent Subgroup Analysis by Irritability Score at Baseline



Note: Negative treatment deltas favor active treatment; effect size presented as an absolute value. Full Analysis set (FAS): The FAS includes all randomized subjects who received at least 1 dose of study drug after randomization and have DB Baseline and at least 1 post-DB Baseline assessment.

# ML-004 Was Generally Well Tolerated Across All Doses and Age Groups



## Overview of Safety Observations

- Majority of TEAEs were mild, transient, and resolved without the need for dose reduction
- No severe or serious TEAEs occurred with ML-004 (all in PBO arm)
- No deaths or life-threatening events occurred
- Most frequent TEAEs ( $\geq 5\%$  and  $>PBO$ ) with ML-004 were headache, nausea, somnolence, vomiting, fatigue, and dizziness
- Adolescents experienced fewer TEAEs than adults, both overall and across common events
  - Adolescents: 62.7% for ML-004 vs. 41.2% for PBO
  - Adults: 86.7% for ML-004 vs. 72.4% for PBO
- Two adolescents discontinued (3.9%) due to a TEAE vs. 0% PBO
- Events commonly associated with commercial zolmitriptan <sup>(1)</sup> (e.g., jaw or chest pressure/tightening and paresthesia), were rare (N=1 each)

## ML-004 Safety Profile

<i>*Placebo-adjusted</i>	Adolescents Treated with ML-004 (N=51)
<b>Weight Gain</b>	Mean ML-004 weight change less than PBO <i>+1.1kg vs. +1.9kg <sup>(2)</sup></i>
<b>Fatigue</b>	1.9%*
<b>Somnolence</b>	11.8%*
<b>Headache</b>	9.8%*
<b>EPS / Akathisia</b>	Not Observed
<b>Hyperprolactinemia / Endocrine</b>	Not Expected
<b>GI Effects</b>	Nausea 9.8%*; Vomiting 5.9%*

TEAE = treatment-emergent adverse event in double-blind period.

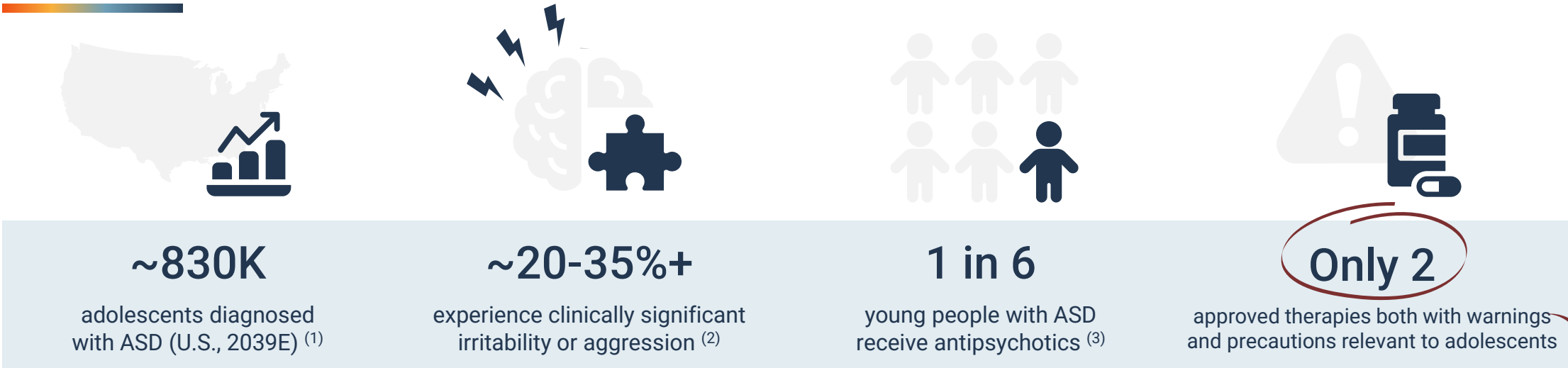
(1) ZOMIG (zolmitriptan) U.S. Prescribing Information (2018).

(2) Based on adolescent weight changes observed between the double-blind baseline and Week 12

# Unmet Medical Need

Chris Kroeger, M.D. | Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer

# Unmet Need in ASD Irritability Remains High



**Incomplete Treatment Response**

Additional options are needed to improve responses across a heterogeneous population

**Meaningful Side-Effect Burden**

Weight gain, sedation and movement-related effects may impair daily functioning

**Challenges with Long-Term Use**

Tolerability concerns may limit chronic treatment, particularly in younger populations

**Caregiver Hesitancy**

Safety concerns may discourage treatment, particularly in younger patients without psychosis

(1) 2039 projection of U.S. adolescents; 2022 NSCH and Grosvenor et al., 2023 claims data.  
 (2) Alatrash et al., 2024; Manter et al., BMC Medicine 2025.  
 (3) Park et al., JAACAP 2016 meta-analysis.

# Current Standard of Care in ASD Irritability



	Risperidone	Aripiprazole
<b>Effect Size (ABC-I)</b>	0.92 - 1.2	0.43 - 0.87
<b>Weight Gain</b>	<p><b>Adverse events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weight increased 6%<sup>(1)</sup></li> <li>Increased appetite 29%<sup>(1)</sup></li> </ul> <p><b>Weight change</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.4 kg more weight gain<sup>(2)</sup></li> <li>26% more subjects gained ≥7% weight<sup>(2)</sup></li> </ul>	<p><b>Adverse events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decreased appetite 5%<sup>(1)</sup></li> </ul> <p><b>Weight change</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.2 kg greater weight gain<sup>(3)</sup></li> <li>19% more subjects gained ≥ 7% weight<sup>(3)</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Fatigue/Somnolence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fatigue 22%<sup>(1)</sup></li> <li>Sedation 48%<sup>(1)</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fatigue 15%<sup>(1)</sup></li> <li>Lethargy 5%<sup>(1)</sup></li> <li>Somnolence 6%<sup>(1)</sup></li> <li>Sedation 17%<sup>(1)</sup></li> </ul>
<b>EPS / Akathisia / Tardive Dyskinesia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parkinsonism 7%<sup>(1)</sup></li> <li>Tremor 7%<sup>(1)</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EPD 6%<sup>(1)</sup></li> <li>Tremor 10%<sup>(1)</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Hyperprolactinemia / Endocrine</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elevated Prolactin 47%<sup>(4)</sup></li> <li>Gynecomastia 2.3%<sup>(4)</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No adverse events reported in autism</li> </ul>
<b>Cardiovascular</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Warning for Orthostatic Hypotension</li> <li>HR increased 1.9 bpm<sup>(3)</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Warning for Orthostatic Hypotension</li> </ul>
<b>GI Effects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Constipation 11%<sup>(1)</sup></li> <li>Nausea 3%<sup>(1)</sup></li> <li>Vomiting 3%<sup>(1)</sup></li> <li>Drooling 8%<sup>(1)</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vomiting 7%<sup>(1)</sup></li> <li>Drooling 9%<sup>(1)</sup></li> </ul>



Meaningful side-effect burden offers a compelling opportunity for better-tolerated treatment options

Sources: Risperdal® prescribing information, revised 2025; Abilify® prescribing information, revised 2025.

(1) PBO-adjusted double-blind short-term trials in autism, TEAE > 5% table.

(2) PBO-adjusted, pediatric patients (5 to 17 years) with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, autistic disorder, or other psychiatric disorders. In short-term trials (3 to 8 weeks).

(3) PBO-adjusted, trials in autism (8-week duration).

(4) PBO-adjusted, 8-week trial in children and adolescents (5 to 17 years) with autistic disorder or psychiatric disorders.

# ML-004 Has the Potential to Address Unmet Needs Through Established Development Path



## Potential Differentiation with ML-004

### Initial efficacy signal from IRIS appears in line with approved therapies <sup>(1)</sup>

- ✓ Clinically meaningful improvement observed across ABC-I and CGI-I in adolescents with elevated irritability
- ✓ Magnitude of effect appears comparable to approved therapies, based on cross-trial comparisons

### Potential for differentiated tolerability profile

- ✓ No signal for weight gain or EPS; low rates of somnolence, particularly among adolescents
- ✓ Most AEs were mild and transient, with no severe or serious AEs with ML-004

### 5-HT<sub>1B/1D</sub> agonism may offer patients and caregivers an alternative approach to current D<sub>2</sub>-based therapies

## Historical Development Precedents <sup>(2)</sup>

- **Efficient trial designs supported prior approvals**
  - Pivotal studies were 8 weeks and generally enrolled approximately 100 patients
- **Focused clinical programs**
  - Studies generally conducted in the U.S. across a limited number of sites <sup>(3)</sup>
- **Established regulatory endpoint**
  - ABC-I served as the primary efficacy endpoint supporting prior approvals

(1) Cross-trial comparisons are inherently limited due to differences in study design, patient populations and analytical methods.

(2) RISPERDAL® prescribing information, revised 2025; ABILIFY® prescribing information, revised 2025.

(3) Based on publicly disclosed study designs of RISPERDAL® and ABILIFY® for irritability associated with ASD.

# Closing Remarks

Chris Kroeger, M.D. | Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer

# Closing Remarks

01

ML-004 demonstrated clinically meaningful improvements in irritability in adolescents with moderate or greater baseline irritability across both caregiver- and clinician-rated scales

- ABC-I (effect size of 1.33, nominal p-value of 0.013)
- CGI-I irritability (effect size of 1.08, nominal p-value of 0.036)

02

ML-004 was generally well tolerated across all doses and age groups

- No drug-related severe or serious AEs
- Meaningful differentiation from standard of care atypical antipsychotics
  - No weight gain relative to placebo
  - No evidence of extrapyramidal symptoms
  - Low rates of fatigue / somnolence

Data support potential development of ML-004 for irritability associated with ASD, an indication with high unmet need and an established regulatory path; next steps will be guided by upcoming regulatory interactions

# Advancing a Broad and Diversified Pipeline

Program	Circuit	Indications	Preclinical	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Anticipated Milestones
<b>ML-007C-MA</b> M <sub>1</sub> /M <sub>4</sub> agonist co-formulated with PAC	Direct and Indirect Pathways	Schizophrenia	ZEPHYR				Topline results by mid-August 2026
		Alzheimer's Disease Psychosis	VISTA				Topline results in 2H 2027
<b>ML-004</b> 5-HT <sub>1B/1D</sub> agonist	Dorsal Raphe to Nucleus Accumbens	Autism Spectrum Disorder Sociability/Irritability	IRIS				Engage with FDA at EOP2 meeting
<b>ML-009</b> GPR52 PAM	Indirect Pathway	Hyperactivity/Impulsivity					Complete IND-enabling studies in 2027
<b>ML-055</b> Next-Gen M <sub>1</sub> /M <sub>4</sub> agonist	Direct and Indirect Pathways	Neuropsychiatric Disorders					Nominate preclinical candidate in 2026
<b>ML-021</b> M <sub>4</sub> antagonist	Direct Pathway	Parkinson's Disease					Finalize preclinical candidate in 2027

Potential in other indications being explored

Leveraging our versatile circuit-based discovery platform for ongoing pipeline expansion



**MapLight**

**Q&A**