



Project Management During Pharmaceutical Preclinical R&D: Study Design, Implementation and Data Interpretation

**药物临床前研发过程中的项目管理：
研究设计、试验实施及数据分析**

**James S. Yan, PhD, MD, DABT
Site Scientific Lead / Sr. Director
Covance Pharmaceutical R&D (Shanghai) Co., Ltd
Shanghai, China**

2nd Global Pharmaceutical Summit – CRO Forum 17-18 May 2012



Agenda

Covance China Overview

Preclinical R&D in Current Pharmaceutical Industry

Preclinical Project Management

Case Studies

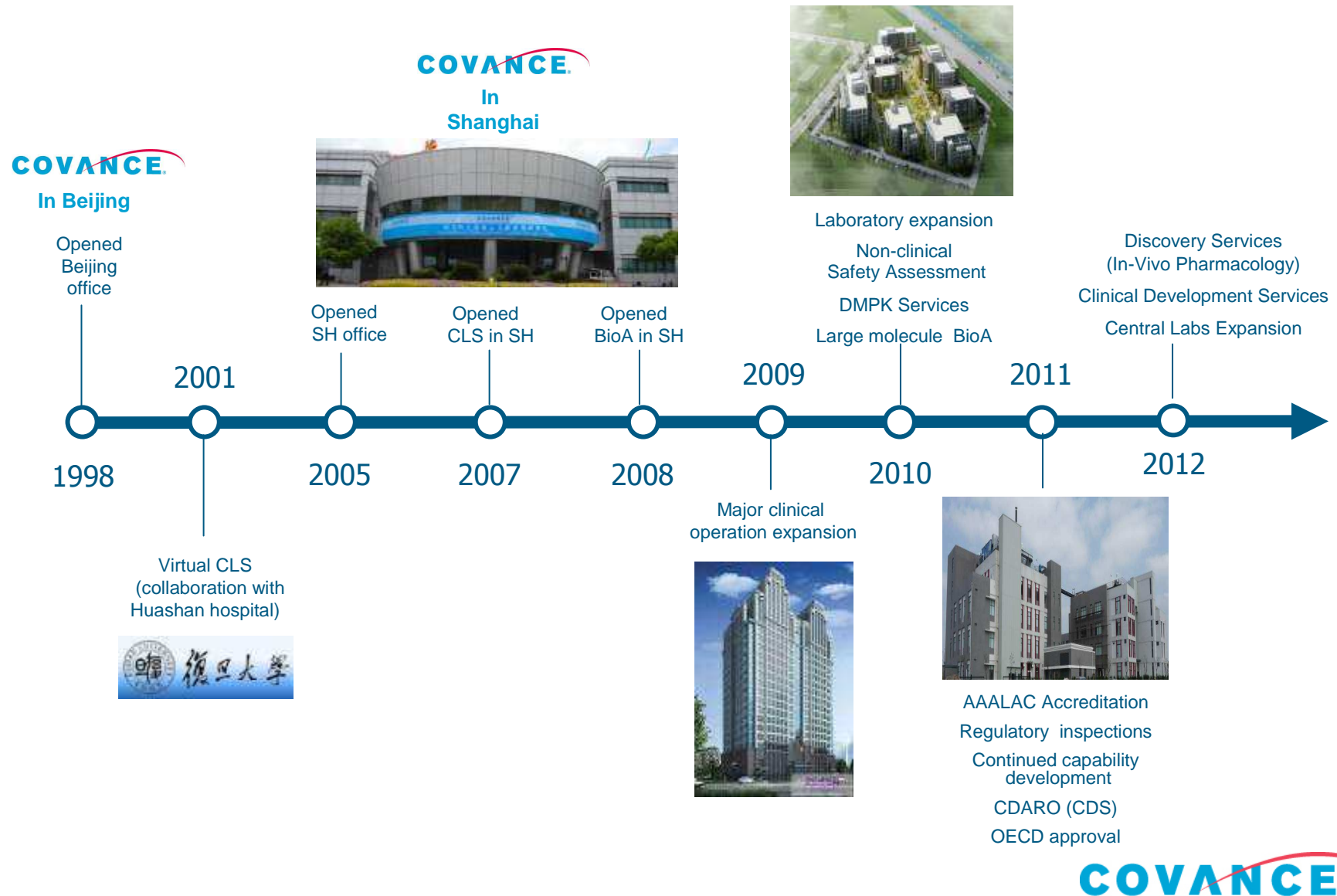
Summary



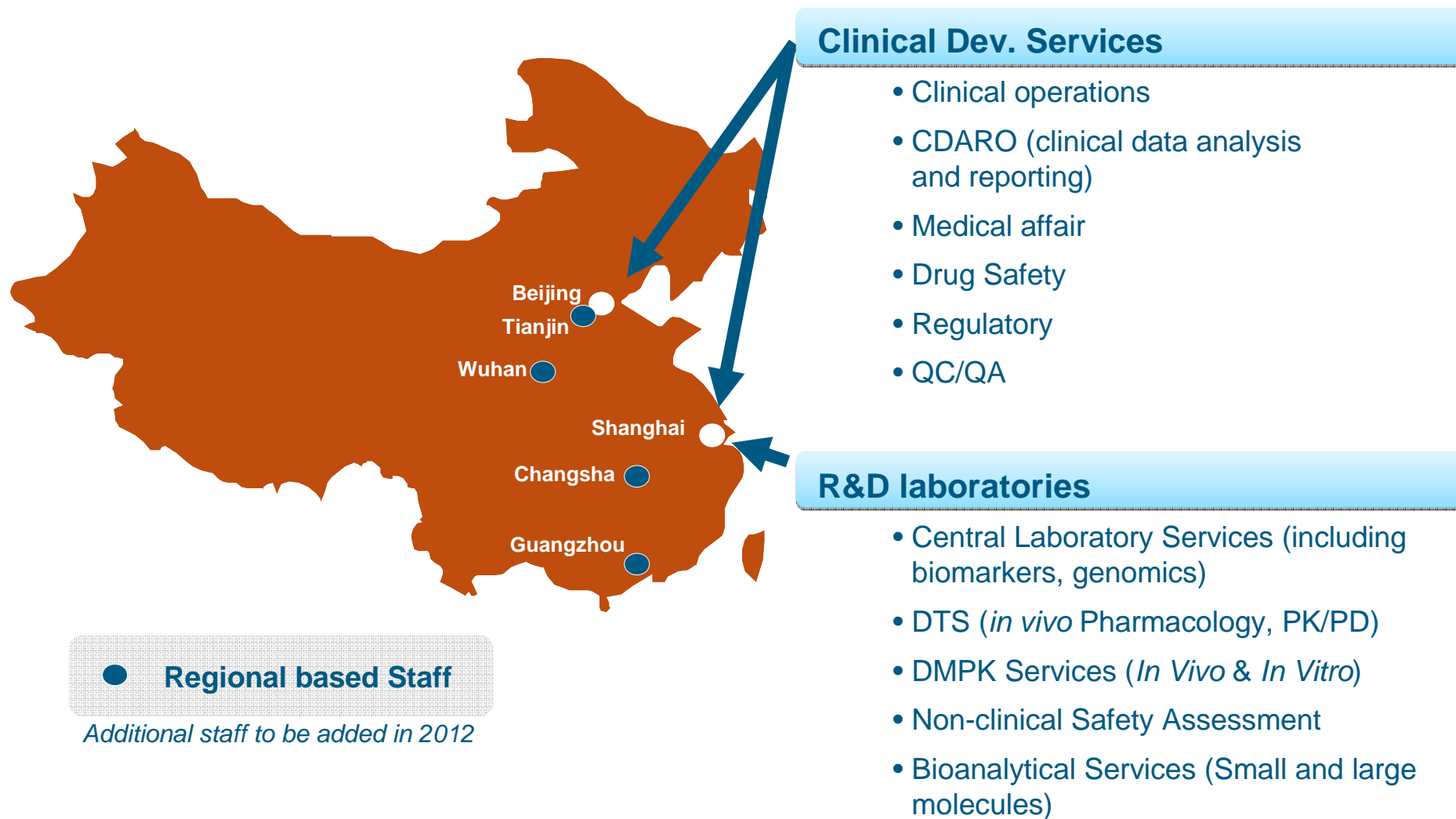
Covance China Overview



Growing Covance China Organization



Covance Services in China



Early Development Facility Highlights

Building Four

- 50,000 square feet
- 30 animal rooms
- Surgery suite
- Dose Formulation and Dose Analysis
- Clinical Pathology Ops
- Anatomic Pathology Ops

Building Three

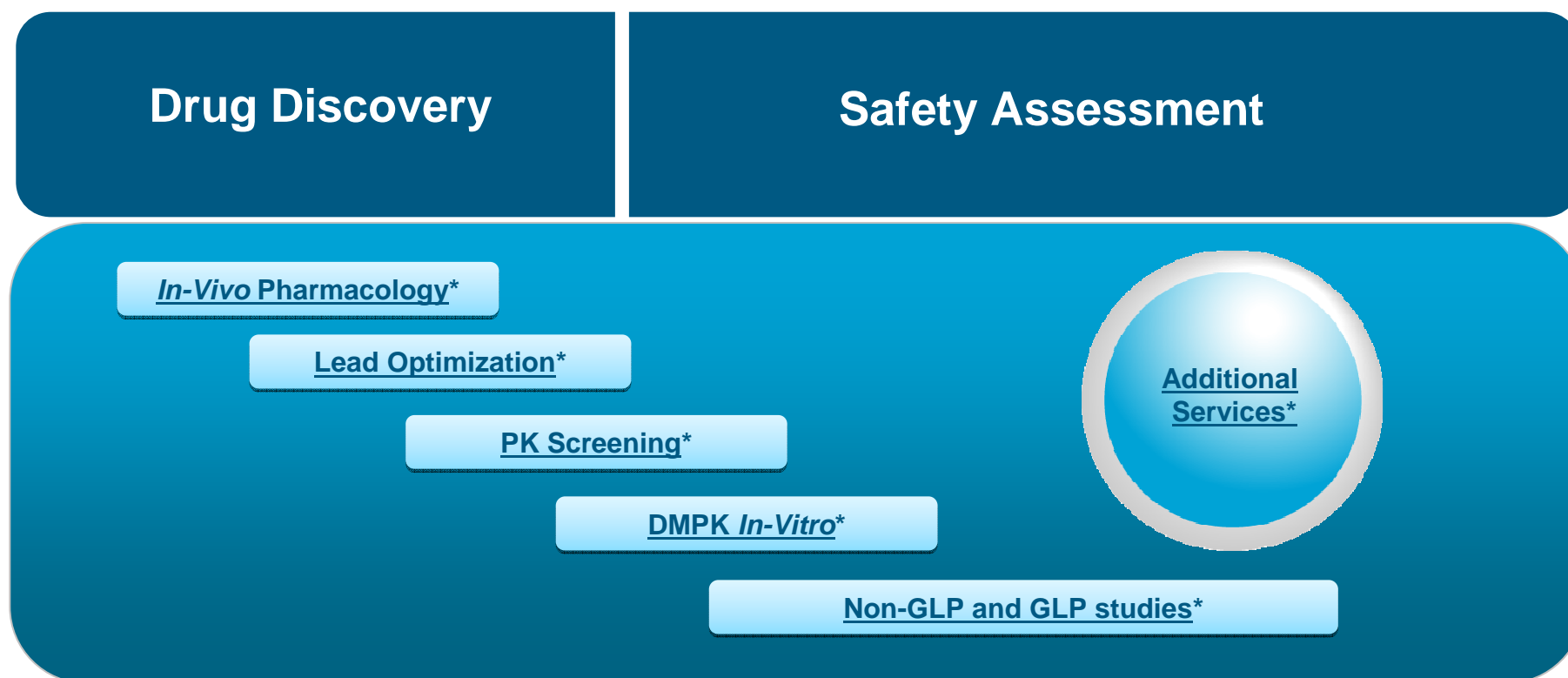
- 40,000 square feet
- Archives
- Bioanalytical Services
- DMPK Services

Support Building

- Backup power generator
- Backup water supply

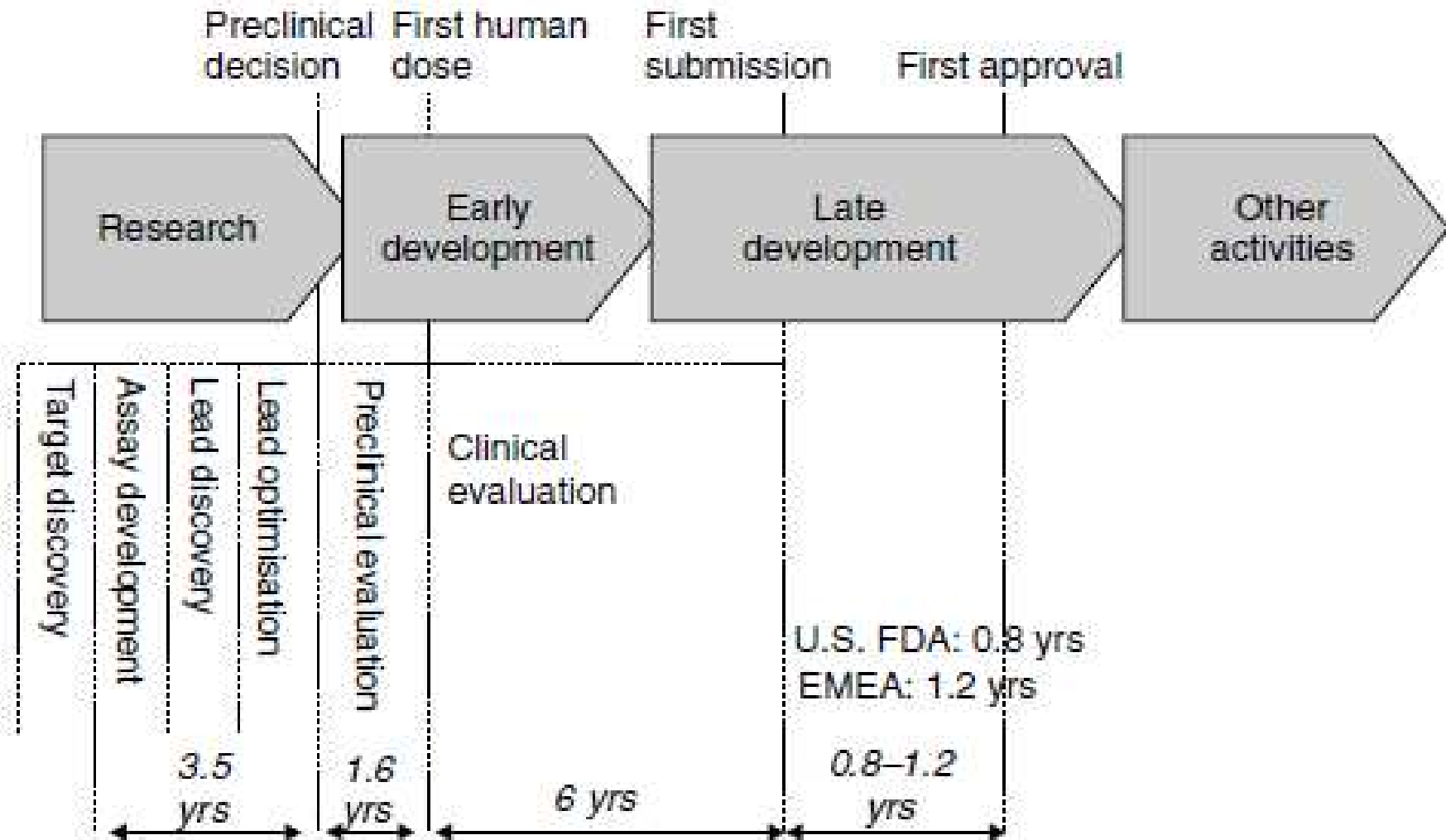


Available Capabilities In Early Development

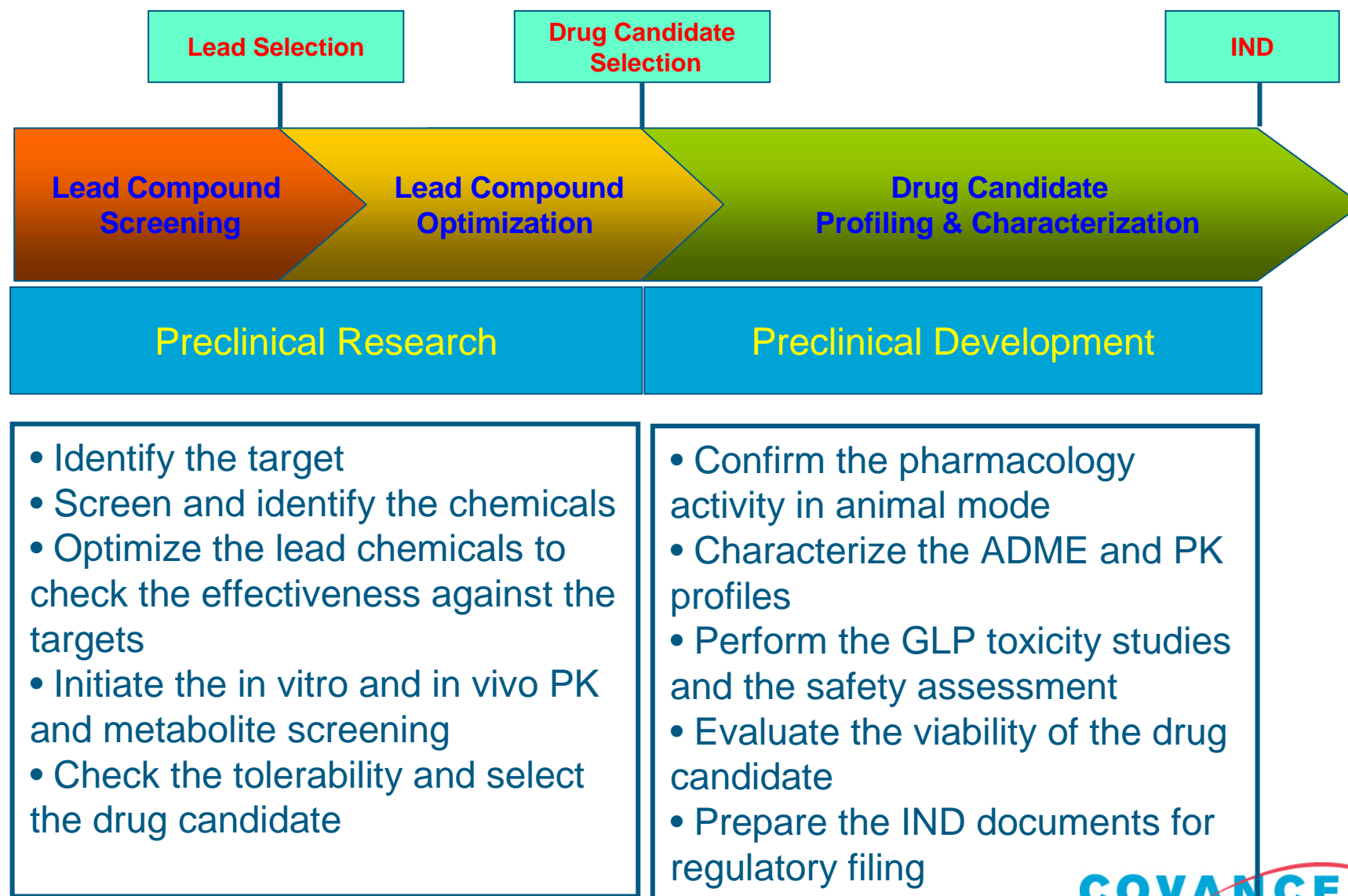


Preclinical R&D in Current Pharmaceutical Industry

Pharmaceutical R&D Process



Preclinical R&D Process In Pharmaceutical R&D



Current Models of Preclinical R&D

	Biology/ Pharmacology	ADME/PK	Toxicology
Model I	In-house	In-house	Non-GLP (in-house)
Model II	In-house	In-house	Outsource
Model III	In-house	Outsource	Outsource
Model IV	Outsource	Outsource	Outsource



Preclinical Project Management

Project Management in Drug R&D

- Pharmaceutical project management embraces the entire project procedure, from early drug discovery to the drug marketing
 - Defines the milestones and resources
 - Brings cross-functional team members together to achieve project goals and objectives
 - Determines the critical path
 - Monitors executions and implementation
 - Evaluates the results and make the recommendations for Go/Non-Go decision
 - Sets up the budget

Project Management in Different Stages

- Preclinical Research (Discovery)
- Preclinical Development (IND enabling)
- Early Clinical Development (FIH and POC)
- Late Clinical Development (Ph III)
- Post Approval (Ph IV)

Preclinical Research Project Management

- Goals and objectives in the preclinical research (Discovery):
 - Find the right target
 - Identify a compound series to hit the target
 - Select a suitable drug candidate from a large number of compounds screened for activity in vitro or in animal models

Preclinical Research Project Management



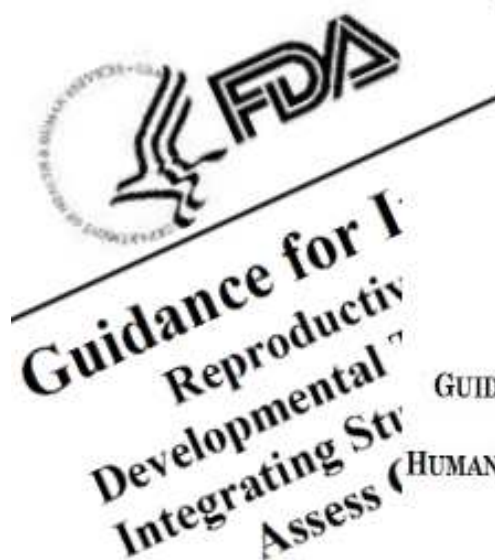
- Innovation is the key
- Scientist is the driver
- Goals and Scientist interests should be aligned
- Coordination and teamwork are critical

The key to managing innovation is to make the best use of scientists' creativity and build an innovation-fostering culture

Preclinical Development Project Management

- Goals and objectives of preclinical development:
 - Generate adequate information to justify the safe first administration of a new drug to humans
 - Provide the safety information to ensure close monitoring of potential clinical symptoms
 - Prepare the regulatory document to obtain regulatory approval for the Phase I clinical trial





ICH HARMONISED TRIPARTITE GUIDELINE

GUIDANCE ON NONCLINICAL SAFETY
CONDUCT OF
HUMAN CLINICAL TRIALS AND MARKETING
FOR PHARMACEUTICALS

M3(R2)

Current Status
dated 1st



Draft	
Draft Agreed by CHMP	October 2011
Adoption by CHMP for release for consultation	15 December 2011
End of consultation (deadline for comments)	31 May 2012
Comments should be provided using this template: EMA.Comment@ema.europa.eu	
The completed comment form should be sent to: EMA.Comment@ema.europa.eu	
Keywords: Interferon beta, similar biological medicinal product, biosimilar, comparability, non-clinical studies, clinical studies	

This guideline has been developed
been subject to consultation!
At Step 4 of the Process the
the European Union, Japan and



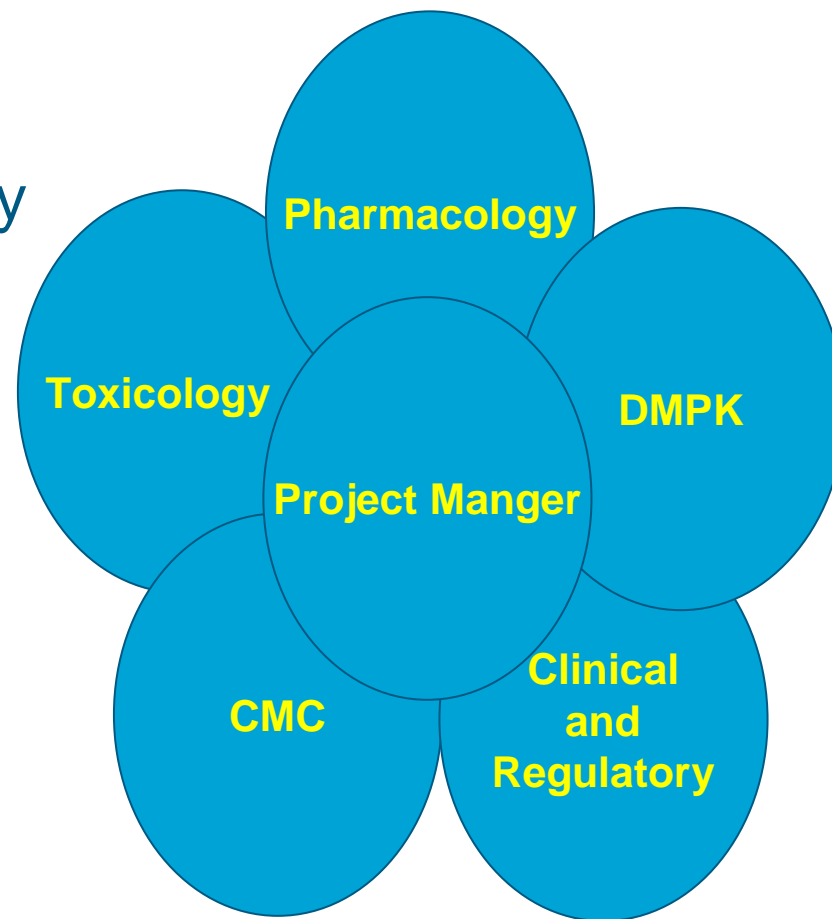
COVANCE

Tasks in Preclinical Development

Toxicology	Repeat oral- or IV-dose studies in one rodent and one nonrodent species duration from 2 wks up to 3 mo Mutagenicity tests Reproduction toxicology
Safety pharmacology	Effects on cardiovascular, respiratory, gastrointestinal, renal, and CNS systems
Pharmacokinetics/metabolism	Basic kinetics and single dose ADME in 2 species; autoradiographic distribution pattern; protein binding Metabolism in vitro; toxicokinetics
Production	
API preparation and scale-up	Scale-up from laboratory to pilot scale to produce necessary amounts for phase 1 under GMP conditions; last chemical conversion step should preferably be finalized
Drug product development	Formulation with suitable stability and acceptable bioavailability for phase 1 studies

Preclinical Research Project Management

- Regulatory is the driver
 - Compliance the regulatory requirements
- Science is the base
 - Data interpretation
- Safety is the key
 - Safety margin
 - Predict human
- Timeline is the critical factor



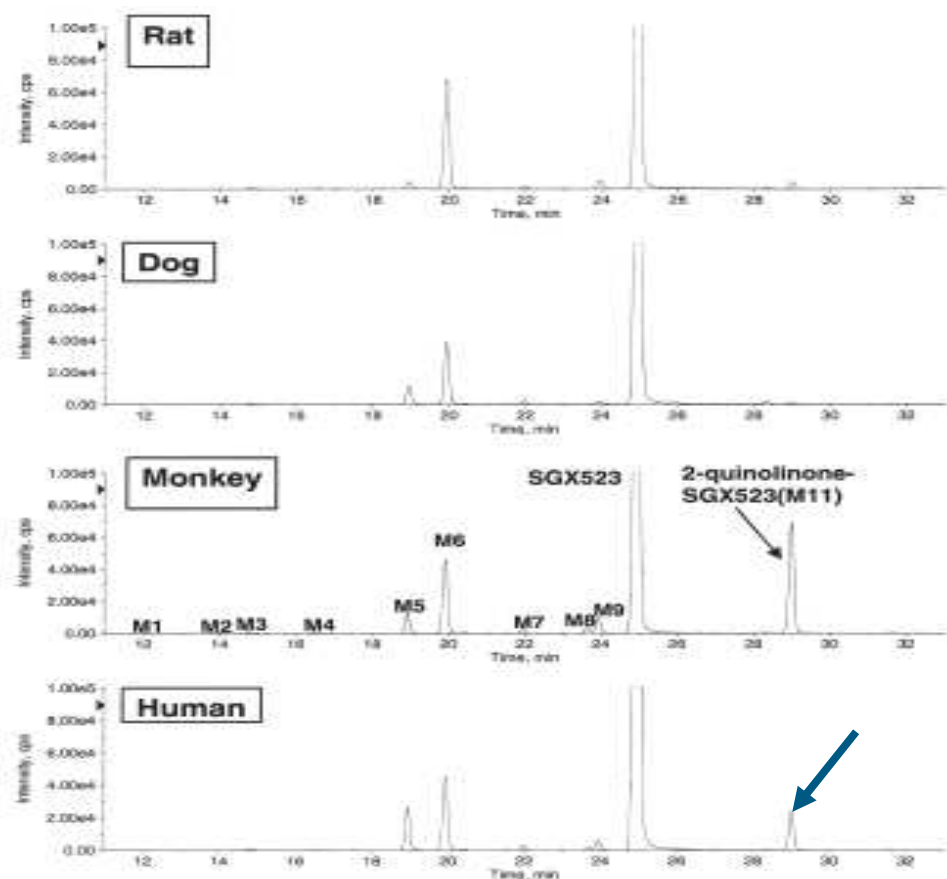
Case Study

Case Study 1

- Background:
 - SGX523, an orally bioavailable, potent, and selective small molecule inhibitor of c-met
 - The microsomal metabolism profile of SGX523 was similar among rats, dogs, monkeys, and humans
 - Investigational new drug-enabling studies were conducted in rats and dogs
 - Phase I clinical trial initiated, but has to be stopped due to acute renal failure at the 2nd dose level (80 mg/kg)
 - The analysis of samples from the discontinued clinical trial revealed a metabolism profile different from that of the preclinical species studied



Case Study 1



- In vivo studies in monkeys showed obstructive nephropathy with intratubular crystal formation, consistent with human data
- One metabolite (M11) was not found in rats and dogs, but it presents in monkeys and humans
- M11 has very poor solubility, which is confirmed involving the drug induced renal toxicity

This study illustrates the need to conduct thorough metabolic evaluations early in drug development to select the most relevant non-clinical species for toxicological evaluation.

Case Study 2

- Background:
 - An small molecular drug candidate for oncology
 - Very potent in pharmacology and good PK profile
 - Te NOAEL in rats and dogs are 2 mg/kg (2-fold of pharmacology dose) and 0.1 mg/kg(1.2-fold of pharmacology dose), respectively
 - All toxicology findings are reversible
 - The LD50 in dogs (0.3 mg/kg) is very close to NOAEL and only 3-fold
 - Go/Non-Go decision!

Case Study 2

- Data interpretation:
 - Rats
 - Dogs
- Team Justification:
 - The death of the animals were mostly caused by the GI injury and stop eat. Dog GI is very sensitive compare to other species including humans. Therefore, in humans, the toxicities are expected less serious and the LD50 found in dog study may not relevant to humans.
- Recommendation:
 - Go for the IND filing and initiate the Ph I with more carefully monitoring especially GI bleeding.
- Current status of the project:
 - Ph I trial in patients has been finished. Ph II will be started soon.
 - The MTD in humans are over the therapeutic dose
 - The pharmacology responses were found some of the patients

This study illustrates the detail data interpretation is critical for Go/Non-Go decision!



Summary

Summary

- Pharmaceutical R&D process is a long and complicate process
- Preclinical R&D is the critical stage to justify if the drug candidate can be moved into the FIH
- Project management is essential element to ensure the completion of the goals and objectives for the project
- Project manager and management team should fully understand that, in different stage of the pharmaceutical R&D, project management has different focus
- Carefully review and interpret the data and strategically thinking are critical for the recommendation to the Sr. management team for Go/Non-Go decision

Thank You for Your Attention!



COVANCE