



# AcelRx KOL Event on Niyad™ and the Nafamostat Program

May 4, 2022  
1:00 p.m. EDT

**AcelRx**  
*Pharmaceuticals, Inc.*

# Forward-Looking Statements



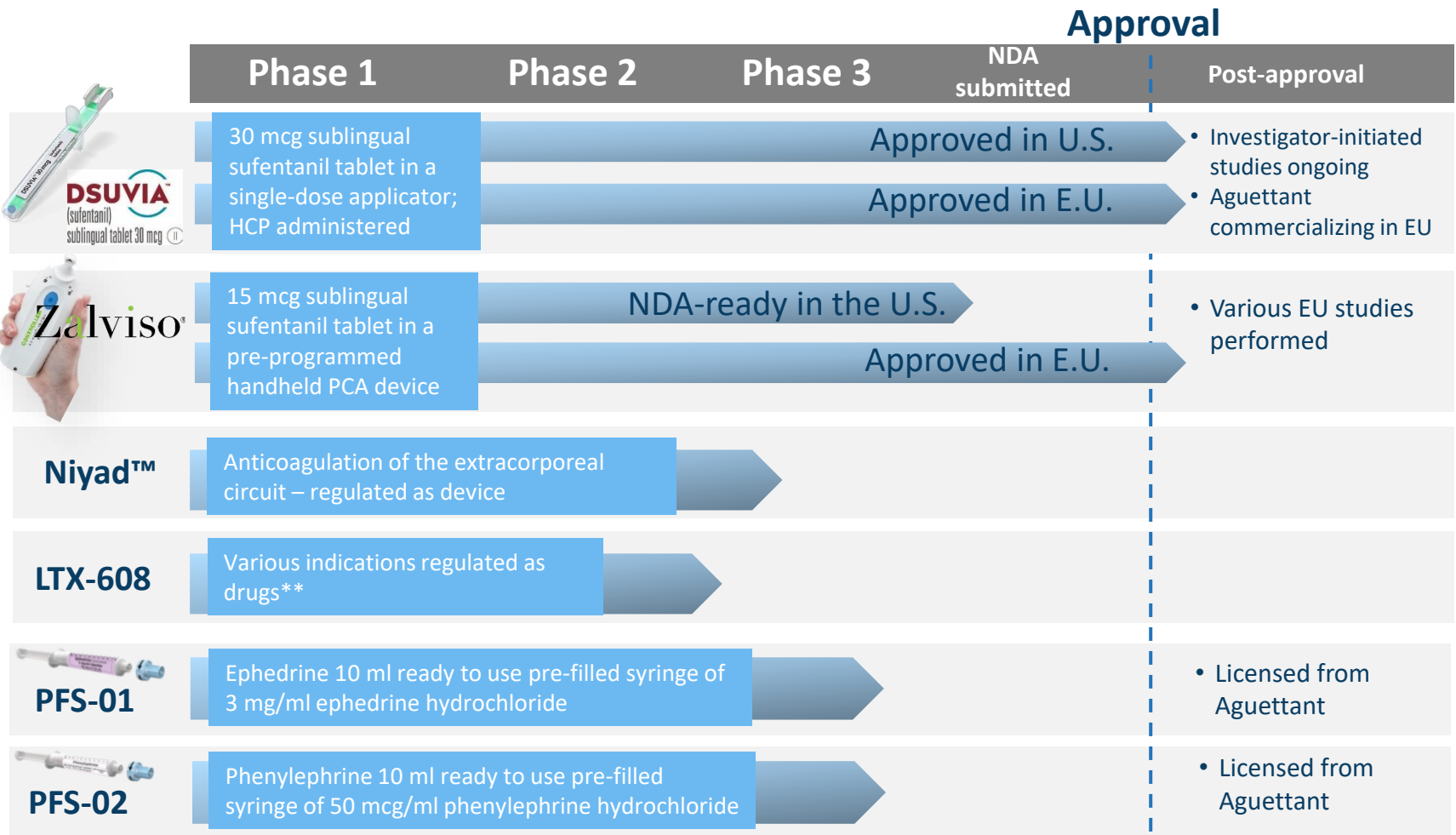
## Forward-Looking Statements

Some of the information in this presentation is not historical in nature and may constitute forward-looking statements, which are made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements may be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as “believes,” “expects,” “anticipates,” “may,” “will,” “should,” “seeks,” “supports,” “suggests,” “approximately,” “intends,” “plans,” “chances,” “estimates,” or the negative of these words or other comparable terminology. The discussion of financial trends, strategy, plans or intentions may also include forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected, anticipated or implied by such statements. Although it is not possible to predict or identify all such risks and uncertainties, they may include, but are not limited to, those described in the Company’s annual, quarterly and current reports (*i.e.*, Form 10-K, Form 10-Q and Form 8-K) as filed or furnished with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on any such forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date such statements were first made. To the degree financial information is included in this presentation, it is in summary form only and must be considered in the context of the full details provided in the Company’s most recent annual, quarterly or current report as filed or furnished with the SEC. The Company’s SEC reports are available at [www.aceRx.com](http://www.aceRx.com) under the “Investors” tab. Except to the extent required by law, the Company undertakes no obligation to publicly release the result of any revisions to these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof, or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

## No Offer or Solicitation

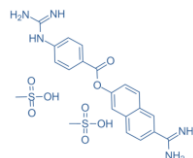
This presentation does not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities, nor shall there be any sale of securities in any jurisdiction in which such offer, solicitation or sale would be unlawful prior to registration or qualification under the securities laws of any such jurisdiction.

# Portfolio of Commercial and Late-Stage Development Products



# Overview of Nafamostat Portfolio Opportunity

A single molecule with multiple potential indications already proven outside the U.S., and with FDA Breakthrough Designation and CMS reimbursement code



Indication

Stage

Available  
U.S. market  
(# of patients)

Available  
U.S. market  
(\$ value)

	Indication	Stage	Available U.S. market (# of patients)	Available U.S. market (\$ value)
1	Niyad™ Anticoagulation for renal replacement therapy (RRT); FDA regulated as a device	EUA/ Phase 3	500,000	\$575 M
2	Niyad™ Anticoagulation for intermittent dialysis (IHD); outpatient dialysis clinics; FDA regulated as a device	Phase 3	350,000	\$3.5 B
3	LTX-608a Disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC)	Phase 2	260,000	\$1.5 B
4	LTX-608b COVID-19	Phase 2	TBD	TBD
5	LTX-608c Acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS)	Phase 2	TBD	TBD

4 The order of priority to develop indications 3-5 may be changed based on further evaluation of market; excludes several other therapeutic indications

# Key Opinion Leader (KOL) Speaker Biographies



## **Lakhmir “Mink” Chawla, MD**

Dr. Chawla is currently the Chief Medical Officer of Silver Creek Pharmaceuticals. Previously, Dr. Chawla was CMO at La Jolla Pharmaceutical Company. While he was at LJPC, he oversaw the development and conduct of the Phase 3 ATHOS-3 trial. Prior to joining LJPC, Dr. Chawla was a Professor of Medicine at the George Washington University, where he had dual appointments in the Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine and in the Department of Medicine, Division of Renal Diseases and Hypertension. Dr. Chawla was previously the Chief of the Division of Intensive Care Medicine at the Washington D.C. Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Dr. Chawla is an internationally renowned expert in the field of acute kidney injury (AKI) and shock. He remains an active investigator in the fields of AKI biomarkers, AKI risk prediction, AKI therapeutics and chronic kidney disease caused by AKI.

Dr. Chawla is also the author of over 150 peer-reviewed publications and a recipient of the International Vicenza Award for Critical Care Nephrology; an award that recognizes individuals who have made seminal clinical research advancements that have significantly improved the care of critically ill patients with AKI and have been adopted worldwide.

## **Stuart Goldstein, MD, FASN**

Stuart L Goldstein, MD, is Professor of Pediatrics and Director, Center for Acute Care Nephrology at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. He received his medical degree from Columbia University and completed both clinical and research fellowships in pediatric nephrology at the Children's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. Dr Goldstein is Founder and Principal Investigator for the Prospective Pediatric Acute Kidney Injury Research Group and has evaluated novel urinary AKI biomarkers in the pediatric critical care setting. He was one of two pediatric work group members for the KDIGO International AKI Guideline Work Group and has served on the KDOQI Hemodialysis Adequacy, Vascular Access and Pediatric Nutrition Guideline Work Groups. He has written over 300 journal articles, served as editor of two textbooks, and contributed book chapters to numerous texts including, Critical Care Nephrology, Evidence-Based Nephrology, Handbook of Dialysis Therapy, Management of Acute Kidney Problems, Pediatric Critical Care, Pediatric Nephrology, and Pediatric Nephrology in the ICU.





# Agenda

- **Niyad™ : Nafamostat for Anticoagulation of the Extracorporeal Circuit** **Dr. Palmer**
- **Standard of Care and Unmet Need for Dialysis Anticoagulation** **Dr. Chawla**
- **Initial Q and A**
- **Recent Publication of Nafamostat vs. Citrate for RRT** **Dr. Goldstein**
- **Clinical Development of Niyad in U.S.** **Dr. Palmer**
- **LTX-608: Nafamostat for Intravenous Injection** **Dr. Chawla**
- **Final Q and A**

# Niyad™ : Nafamostat for Anticoagulation of the Extracorporeal Circuit

Pamela Palmer, MD PhD  
Chief Medical Officer, AcelRx



# What is Nafamostat?

*Broad-spectrum serine protease inhibitor*

- Serine proteases are enzymes that contain the amino acid serine at the active site that cleaves peptide bonds
  - Many complicated cellular cascades in the body (clotting cascade, immune cascade, inflammatory cascade) are a series of activated proteins cleaved from precursor proteins
- When these cascades go awry, an inhibitor of the cascade at key steps can be therapeutic
  - For example, blocking thrombin from cleaving fibrinogen to fibrin
- Careful titration of this inhibition is critical as these systems are vital to survival
- Nafamostat is broad-spectrum meaning it inhibits a wide variety of serine proteases but it has a half-life of 8 minutes





# What is an Extracorporeal Circuit?

*Extracorporeal means “outside the body”*

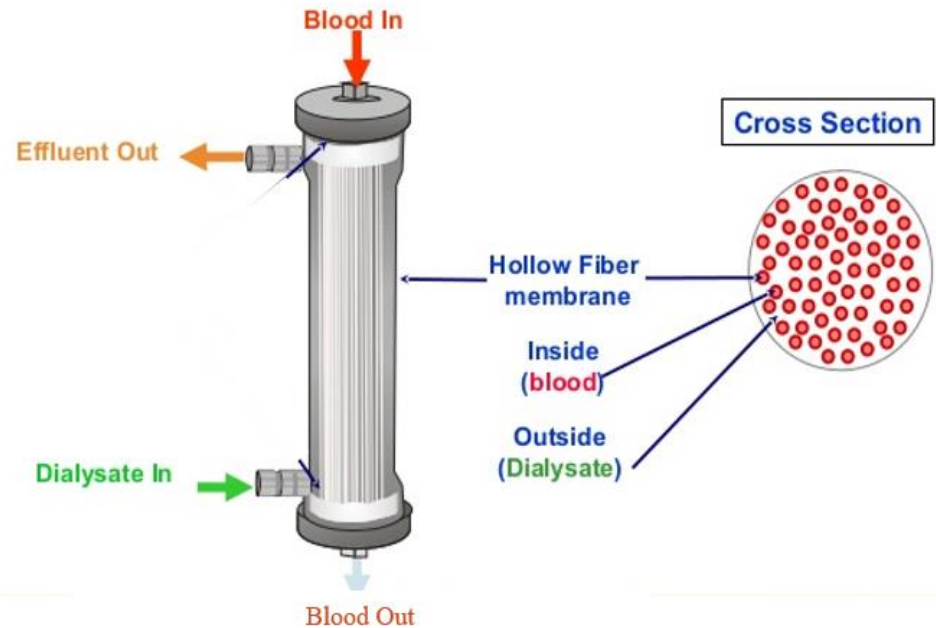
- Extracorporeal circuits transit the blood outside of the body through a machine that temporarily assumes an organ's functions
  - Dialysis replaces function of the kidneys
  - Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) replaces function of the lungs
  - Cardiopulmonary bypass replaces function of both heart and lungs
- To avoid clotting of the blood passing through the circuit, an anticoagulant is often used
  - Systemic anticoagulant: both the patient and the circuit are anticoagulated (eg, heparin)
  - Regional anticoagulant: only the circuit is anticoagulated (eg, citrate, nafamostat)

# Anticoagulation During Dialysis



- Renal Replacement Therapy (RRT) used in hospitalized patients with acute or chronic kidney disease
- Regional anticoagulation is desirable due to systemic anticoagulants risk of excessive bleeding
- In the US there is one *regional* anticoagulant available and only under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA).
- Niyad™ to be regulated as a device due to mechanism of action

## The Basic Hemofilter



# Standard of Care and Unmet Need for Dialysis Anticoagulation

Lakhmir “Mink” Chawla, MD

# Exposure of Blood to the Dialysis Filter Causes Clotting



More frequent filter changes required to ensure efficacy



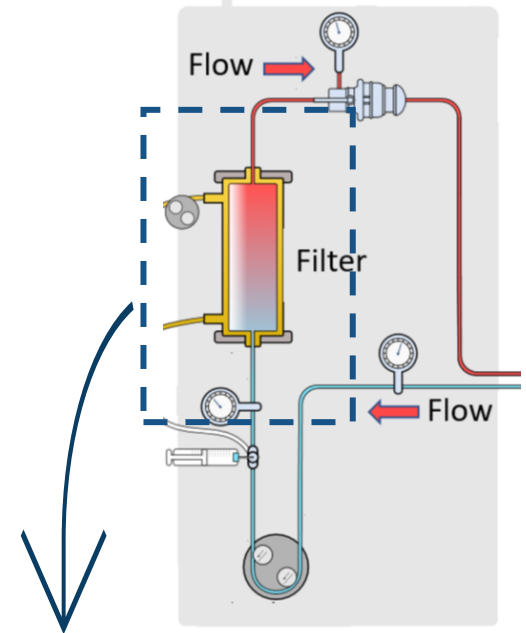
Increased blood loss; increased platelet transfusions



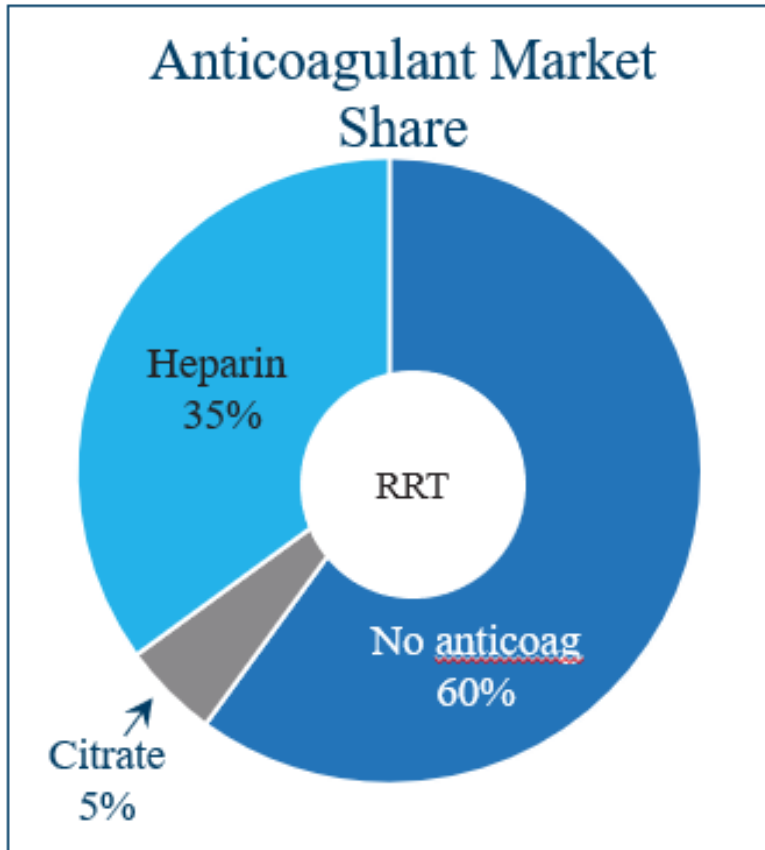
Delayed/prolonged treatment time



Burden on healthcare professional



# The Standard of Care in RRT



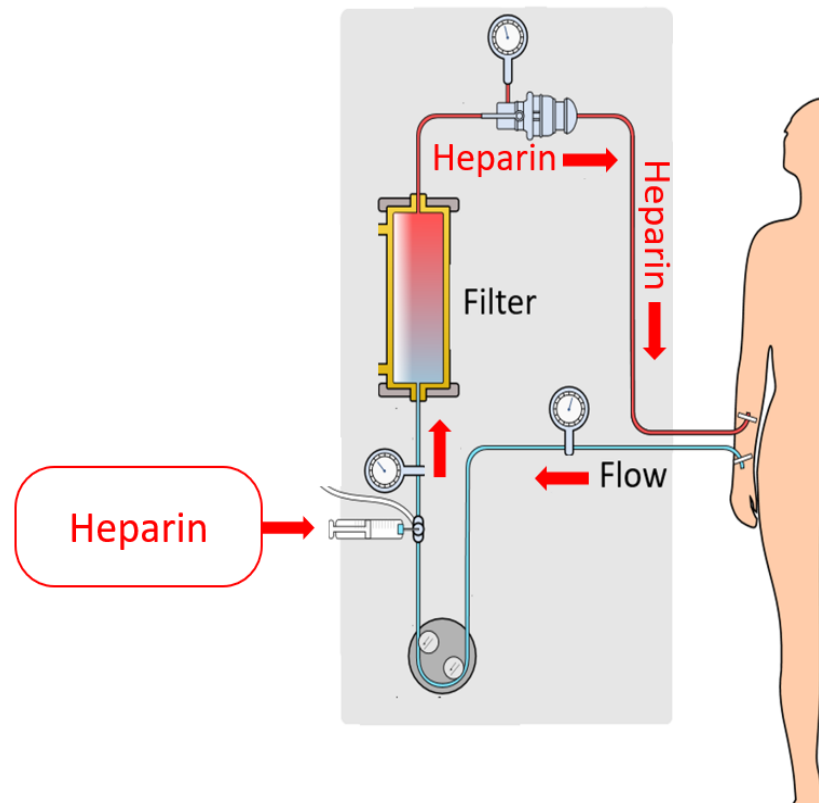
- Heparin (systemic anticoagulant)
- Citrate (regional anticoagulant used in U.S. only via an EUA\*)
- No anticoagulant is unfortunately the default when physicians are concerned with safety of heparin or citrate

\*EUA = Emergency Use Authorization

# FDA-Approved Systemic Anticoagulant

## Heparin

- Systemic anticoagulant
- Prolonged half-life up to 6 hours makes it difficult to titrate
- Clinicians fear over anticoagulating the patient
- Significant safety concern for patients at risk of bleeding
- Thrombocytopenia



1) Ohtake Y. Nafamostat as Anticoagulant in Continuous HD. Contrib Nephrol. 1991;93;215-217.

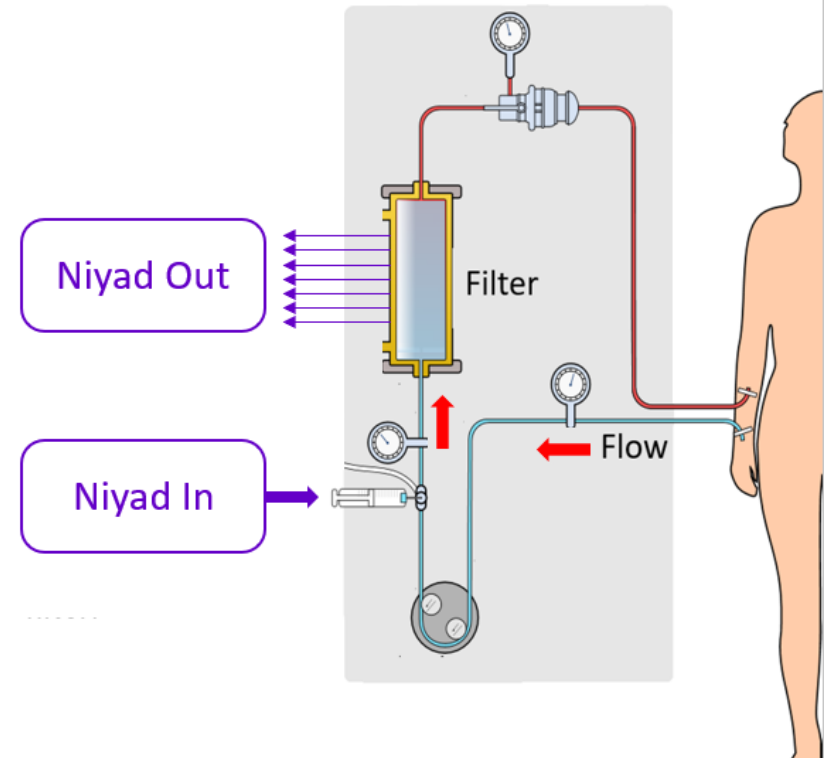
# Risks Associated with Citrate (used under EUA)

- Citrate chelates calcium, which inhibits the generation of thrombin.
- Use of citrate requires infusion of calcium on the return side of the filter (back into patient).
- Extensive, complicated protocol
- Frequent blood draws to measure calcium are time-consuming and expensive
- Rapid changes in calcium levels which can cause hypotension, ventricular fibrillation, and possibly cardiac arrest.
- Even more complicated in patients with liver failure



# Benefits of Niyad in RRT

- Standardized international guidelines recommend using an anticoagulant during RRT
- Niyad provides short half-life, titratable, regional anticoagulation** without the shortcomings of heparin or citrate
- Advantages of Niyad
  - Niyad can be used in patients at risk of bleeding, whereas heparin is limited
  - Niyad can be used easily in patients with liver failure – whereas citrate is limited
- Compared to no anticoagulation: fewer filter changes, fewer transfusions, more importantly – lower cost of doctor and nursing time



	Heparin	Nafamostat
Incidence of Bleeding <sup>1</sup>	66.7 % (8/12)	4.3 % (1/23)



# Decades of Nafamostat Studies To Support U.S. Approval



Reference	Study Type	N (nafamostat/total)	Author's Conclusions
<a href="#">Murase, 1988</a>	RCT	20/40	Nafamostat reduced transfusion requirements (p<0.01), blood loss (p<0.05), and heparin dose (p<0.05). Nafamostat inhibits fibrinolysis and preserves platelet counts and function during cardiopulmonary bypass during open heart surgery.
<a href="#">Koshikawa, 1988</a>	RCT	77/157	Nafamostat is a more useful and safer anticoagulant for hemodialysis patients with hemorrhagic complications than methods using regional or low-dose heparin.
<a href="#">Baek, 2012</a>	Retrospective	62/243	The use of nafamostat in patients with a high risk of bleeding who required CRRT lengthened the filter survival time from 10.2 to 19.8 hours (p<0.001) without an increase in RBC transfusions
<a href="#">Hwang, 2013</a>	Retrospective	25/212	Nafamostat lengthened filter life with minor side effects comparable to heparin use or no anticoagulation. Median filter lifespan with nafamostat was significantly greater than heparin (24.3 vs. 17.5 hours, p<0.001).
<a href="#">Lee, 2014</a>	RCT	36/73	The number of filters functioning over 12 hours was significantly higher in the nafamostat group than in the no-anticoagulation group (p=0.037). No significant differences in transfusion or survival were found between the nafamostat group and the group not receiving an anticoagulant.
<a href="#">Choi, 2015</a>	RCT	31/55	The nafamostat group had a 42.2% longer filter lifespan (p=0.022). Conversion of CRRT to conventional intermittent hemodialysis was significantly higher in the NM group than in the no anticoagulation group (20.8% versus 1.8%; P=0.002).

# Initial Q & A Session

# Recent Publication of Nafamostat vs. Citrate for RRT

Stuart Goldstein, MD



- Pediatric and adult dialysis anticoagulation needs are similar, but margin for error is narrower in children
- Regional citrate anticoagulation is considered gold standard but is complex to perform
- Important to compare the two regional techniques (nafamostat and citrate) to assure nafamostat has equivalent efficacy, and to evaluate safety

Pediatric Nephrology

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00467-022-05502-8>

ORIGINAL ARTICLE



## Comparison of nafamostat mesilate to citrate anticoagulation in pediatric continuous kidney replacement therapy

Mai J. Miyaji<sup>1,2,3</sup> · Kentaro Ide<sup>2</sup> · Kohei Takashima<sup>2</sup> · Mikiko Maeno<sup>2</sup> · Kelli A. Krallman<sup>1</sup> · Danielle Lazear<sup>1</sup> · Stuart L. Goldstein<sup>1,4</sup>



# Methods

- Retrospective study of patient records at one children's hospital in Japan (nafamostat) and one in the US (citrate).
- Starting June 2019, the most recent 100 medical records of children receiving RRT with either citrate or nafamostat were reviewed
- Primary endpoint
  - the number of hours a single dialysis filter was in use (filter life)
  - Filter life also censored for non-CRRT ACG reasons (scheduled circuit change, patient transport to Radiology etc.)
- Safety
  - bleeding complications
  - anaphylaxis
  - citrate toxicity (systemic ionized hypocalcemia)
  - electrolyte imbalance

# Efficacy Results: Similar Filter Life for Nafamostat and Citrate



- Eighty patients received nafamostat and 78 patients received citrate
- Patients receiving nafamostat were younger, smaller and had smaller catheters—all factors that are associated with reduced filter life
- Patients receiving nafamostat had a higher prevalence of liver disease, which creates a more complicated citrate protocol
- Median filter life was slightly longer for the nafamostat group (38 hrs) vs. citrate (36 hrs),  $p = 0.02$
- There was no difference in filter survival after controlling for filter surface area, catheter diameter, and pre-treatment platelet count
- When evaluating circuit clotting with nafamostat versus citrate over time, there was never any difference between citrate and nafamostat



# Adverse Events

- Nafamostat (NM) had similar bleeding events compared to citrate (RCA)
- However, 11 citrate-treated patients developed citrate toxicity and 3 patients had refractory metabolic alkalosis from citrate - 8 of these 14 patients had to have regional citrate anticoagulation stopped

	RCA (N=78)	NM (N=80)	p value
Major bleeding, n (%)	7 (9.0)	4 (5.0)	0.33
Minor bleeding, n (%)	9 (11.5)	11 (13.8)	0.68
Adverse effect specific to each ACG, n (%)	Citrate toxicity 11 (14.1)	Anaphylaxis 0 (0)	NA



# Citrate Anticoagulation is Expensive

- Published in the supplemental materials of this study is a detailed analysis calculating the cost of daily citrate anticoagulation
- Not included is the extensive nursing time required to run/troubleshoot multiple infusions, draw calcium levels, check labs, etc

## **Regional citrate anticoagulation specifics**

- 1) 30 kg patient would have a CKRT blood pump flow rate of 150 ml/min
- 2) Protocol leads to:
  - a. ACD-A™ (\$12.32 per 1 liter bag)<sup>a</sup> at 225 ml/hour = **\$66.53/day**
  - b. Calcium chloride (8 mg/ml) = \$24.25/vial (10% 10 mL vial); leads to CaCl<sub>2</sub> at 90 ml/hour = **\$419.04/day**
  - c. Every 8-hour ionized Ca<sup>2+</sup> \$13.68 per check<sup>b</sup> = **\$41.04 per day**
  - d. Total cost + iCal = **\$526.61/day**





# Conclusions

- Both citrate and nafamostat provide satisfactory anticoagulation for RRT with no difference in major bleeding rates
- Nafamostat is a much simpler technique with fewer risks for serious adverse events, including citrate toxicity
- Citrate anticoagulation is more complex, time-consuming and expensive

# Clinical Development of Niyad in U.S.

Pamela Palmer, MD PhD

# Niyad Awarded Breakthrough Device Designation Status *and* ICD-10 Procedural Code



- Breakthrough Device Designation
  - Interactive and timely communication with FDA
  - Pre/post-market balance of data collection
  - Efficient and flexible clinical study design
  - Review team support
  - Senior management engagement
  - Priority review
  - Manufacturing considerations for PMA submission
- Pre-approval procedural code
  - Extracorporeal Introduction of Nafamostat Anticoagulant, New Technology Group 7 (code XY0YX37)
  - CMS New Technology Add-On Payments (NTAP) cover 65% of the cost exceeding the DRG<sup>1</sup>

1. <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-08-16/pdf/2019-16762.pdf> and <https://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2019-16762.pdf>.



# Opportunity for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA)

*Correspondence with FDA suggests that EUA submission, after initial drug product lot is manufactured/tested, would be actively considered*

- FDA opined on 8/24/21:
  - “We believe that your device has the potential to address an unmet need in patients who cannot tolerate heparin or....who are treated in facilities that are ill-equipped for use of a citrate anticoagulant.”
  - “Additionally, we recognize that there may be an unmet need for patients...who also cannot tolerate citrate due to another condition such as liver disease.”
  - “We believe that you have provided significant evidence demonstrating that the potential benefits of the Niyad device could be greater than the reasonably foreseen risks.”

# Phase 3 Protocol – Design/Endpoints Affirmed by FDA

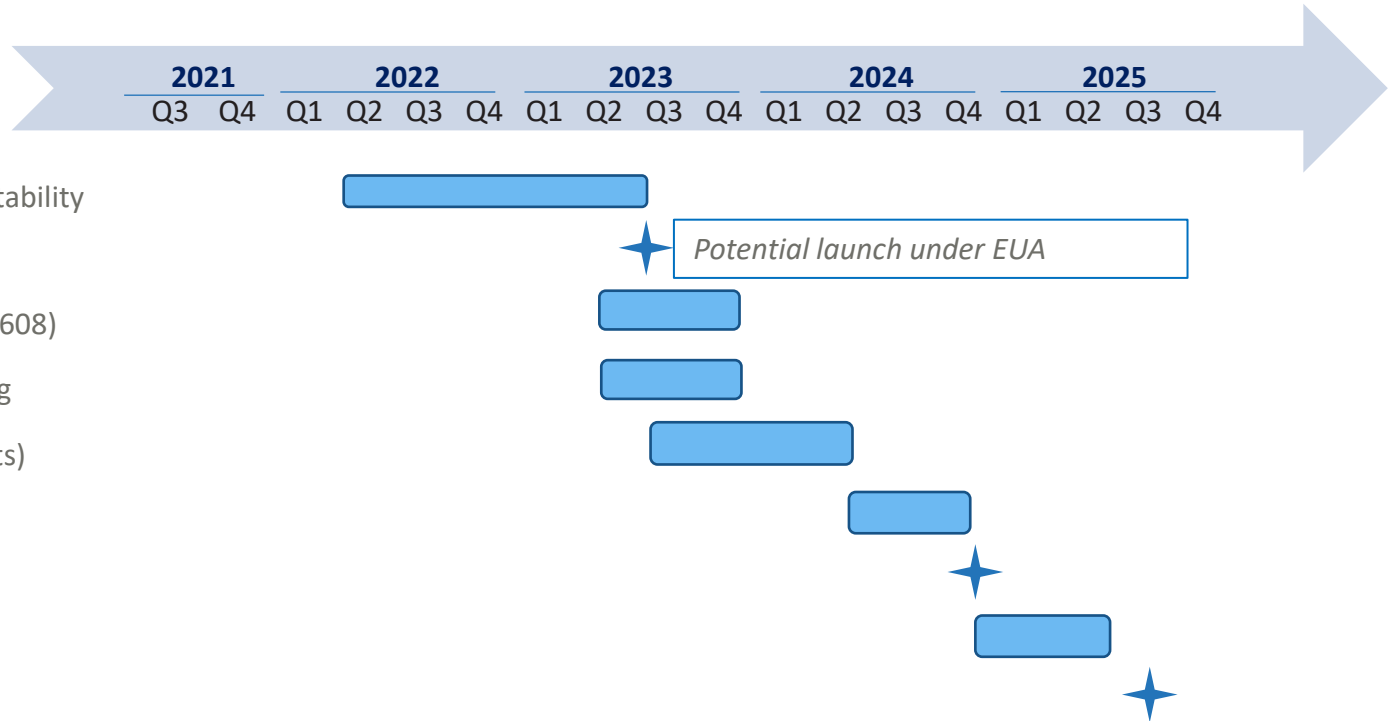


*FDA review of IDE is complete with agreement on a single registrational study*

- Prospective, randomized, placebo-controlled
- 160 adult patients (80 active:80 placebo) undergoing RRT for up to 7 days who cannot tolerate heparin or are at risk for bleeding
- Up to 10 clinical sites
- Primary endpoint: mean post-filter activated clotting time (ACT) over first 24 hours
- Key secondary endpoints:
  - Filter lifespan
  - Number of filter changes over 72 hours
  - Number of transfusions over 72 hours
  - Dialysis efficacy (based on urea concentration) over first 24 hours
- Key safety endpoints
  - Bleeding, electrolyte disorders, 28-day all-cause mortality

# Timeline to PMA approval for Niyad

*Estimated development cost for Niyad through approval in Q2 2025 is \$14M, much of which can be leveraged for other nafamostat indications*



# Nafamostat Intellectual Property Status and Regulatory Exclusivity



6

Six years regulatory exclusivity upon PMA approval



## Niyad™ patent pending

Claims drawn to priming of the extracorporeal circuit and blood flow when using nafamostat.

PATENT



## LTX-608 (nafamostat) multiple patents pending

Claims drawn to use of nafamostat in disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC), as an antiviral agent (e.g., COVID treatment), in acute respiratory distress (ARDS) and other conditions.

PATENT

# LTX-608: Nafamostat for Intravenous Injection

Lakhmir “Mink” Chawla, MD





## LTX-608

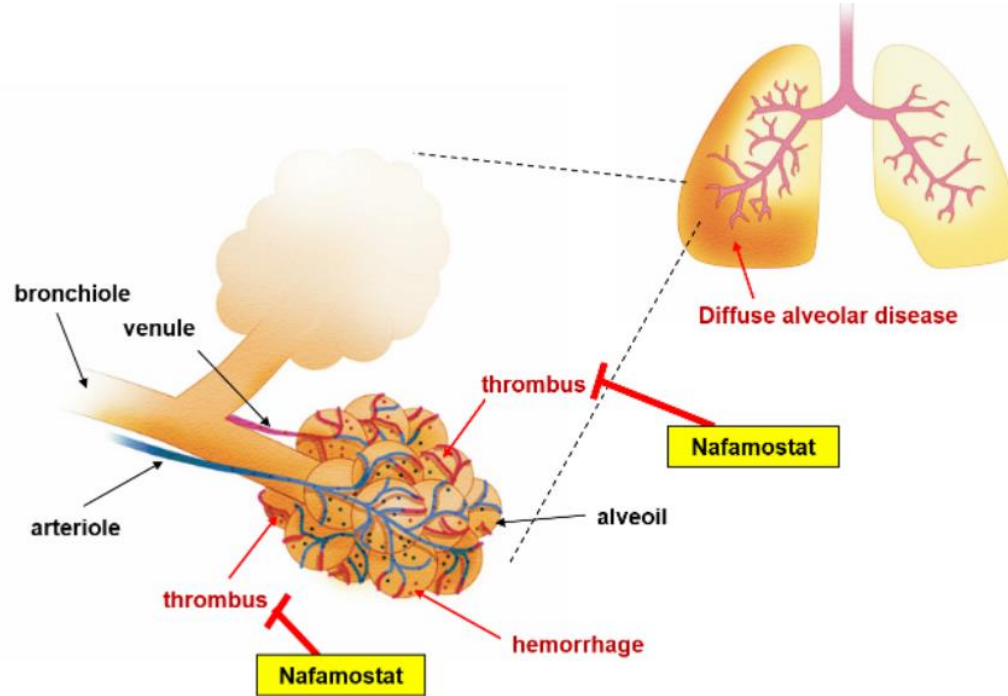
- Nafamostat follow-on indications will focus on:
  - *Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation (DIC)*- approved indication in Japan and South Korea
  - *COVID treatment* – various ex-US studies have demonstrated promising results; AcclRx has a published patent regarding nafamostat antiviral for COVID and other viruses
  - *Acute Respiratory Distress (ARDS)*

# DIC: Nafamostat is already approved in Japan for DIC

*High chances of approval, therefore, intellectual property protection will focus on method of use patents based on the complexity of DIC treatment*



## Mechanism of Action



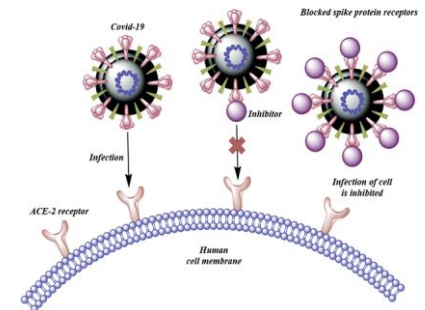
## Clinical/ Regulatory strategy

- Further evaluate potential clinical study and related development cost; ability to leverage non-clinical work performed on other indications and potential safety database
- Complexity of treating DIC may allow methods of use patents to be filed

# LTX-608 studies supporting potential COVID treatment

*A potent broad-spectrum serine protease inhibitor that blocks host protease activation of the viral spike protein<sup>1</sup>*

- No US clinical studies for IV nafamostat have been done



Publications support a potential COVID treatment by inhibiting TMPRSS2

LETTER

Open Access

## Preventing the clinical manifestations and disease progression of coronavirus disease using clinically proven protease inhibitors

Tomoya Sagawa<sup>1,2</sup>, Ken-ichiro Inoue<sup>3</sup> and Hirohisa Takano<sup>1,2</sup>

To the Editor:

Among the patients infected with severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), older adults and those predisposed to cardiovascular or respiratory diseases are particularly vulnerable to severe complications, including acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), multiple organ failure, and disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC), all of which need critical care [1]. The production and application of effective and safe vaccines and/or drugs worldwide will require substantial amount of time and cost. Thus, medical preventing the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) using the existing safe and mass-produced medicines is the need of the hour, especially to protect vulnerable populations.

Doi et al. reported that a combination treatment of favipiravir and nafamostat mesylate, a protease inhibitor may be effective for critically ill patients with COVID-19, possibly via blockade of virus entry and replication as well as inhibition of hypercoagulopathy [2].

Not only to treat but also to decrease the number of critically ill patients with COVID-19, preventing the disease progression and clinical manifestation of COVID-19 is essential. Here, we additionally propose the prophylactic use of clinically proven protease inhibitor based on the following clinical and experimental evidence.

First, protease inhibitors, such as camostat mesylate and nafamostat mesylate, have long been used in the



Journal of Cellular Immunology

Review Article

## A Review of the Possibility of Nafamostat Mesylate in COVID-19 Treatment

Ji-Young Rhee\*

Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine, Dankook University College  
\*Correspondence should be addressed to Ji-Young Rhee; pluripotet@naver.com

Received date: September 04, 2020, Accepted date: November 13, 2020

Copyright: © 2021 Rhee J-Y. This is an open-access article distributed under the License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

### Abstract

Nafamostat mesylate is a synthetic serine protease inhibitor, which inhibits various fibrinolytic systems, the kallikrein-kinin system, the complement system, and the active lipopolysaccharide-induced nitric oxide production, apoptosis, and interleukin-1 production. Moreover, it has been shown to act as an antioxidant in TGF- $\alpha$ -induced treatment of disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC) and acute respiratory distress syndrome in extracorporeal circulation such as continuous renal replacement therapy in Asian countries.

Recently, Nafamostat mesylate as a serine protease inhibitor prevents the fusion of the surface membranes by inhibiting transmembrane serine protease 2 (TMPRSS2), a human mesylate might have a potential antiviral activity.

Here we review recent studies that showed possible roles of Nafamostat mesylate in COVID-19 treatment in relation to the pathogenesis of COVID-19 are also discussed, as a basis for the use of Nafamostat mesylate as a potential therapeutic for COVID-19 in human for COVID-19 established.

**Keywords:** Nafamostat mesylate, COVID-19, SARS-CoV-2, Anti-inflammation, ACE-2

### Introduction

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), which started in Wuhan in December 2019, is a pandemic caused by the newly emerged severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (genus Betacoronavirus, family Coronaviridae). This virus has been reported in 227 countries with more than 21,866,088 confirmed cases and 773,726 deaths as of August 18, 2020 [1]. SARS-CoV-2 is transmitted primarily via the respiratory route in the form of droplets, and also by contact with fomites in the proximity of infected patients.

The clinical spectrum of COVID-19 encompasses asymptomatic infection, mild upper respiratory tract illness, pneumonia that may result in respiratory failure, multi-organ failure, and death.

J Cell Immunol. 2021  
Volume 3, Issue 1

Received: 01 March 2021 | Revised: 10 June 2021 | Accepted: 22 June 2021  
DOI: 10.1002/jcimm.2020022

RESEARCH ARTICLE



## Broad antiviral and anti-inflammatory efficacy of nafamostat against SARS-CoV-2 and seasonal coronaviruses in primary human bronchiolar epithelia

Brian F. Niemeyer<sup>1</sup> | Caitlin M. Miller<sup>1</sup> | Carmen Ledesma-Feliciano<sup>1</sup> | James H. Morrison<sup>2</sup> | Rocio Jimenez-Valdes<sup>1</sup> | Clarissa Clifton<sup>1</sup> | Eric M. Poeschla<sup>1</sup> | Kambez H. Benam<sup>1,3,4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Division of Pulmonary, Allergy and Critical Care Medicine, Department of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

<sup>2</sup> Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine, Anschutz Medical Campus, University of Colorado School of Medicine, Aurora, Colorado, USA

<sup>3</sup> Department of Bioengineering, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

<sup>4</sup> Vascular Medicine Institute, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

**Correspondence:** Kambez H. Benam, Division of Pulmonary, Allergy and Critical Care Medicine, Department of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15261, USA. Email: benamk@upitt.edu

**Funding information:** National Institutes of Health, Grant/Award Numbers: 1U19AI130988, R41ES031639; U.S. Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs Discovery Award, Grant/Award Number: W81XWH2010035; Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

### 1 | INTRODUCTION

Emerging coronaviruses pose substantial threats to public health and global economic well-being. Over

the past 2 decades, new strains of highly pathogenic coronaviruses have emerged by zoonotic transmission to humans, namely severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV) in 2002, Middle East respiratory

This is an open access article under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.  
© 2021 The Authors. Nano Select published by Wiley-VCH GmbH

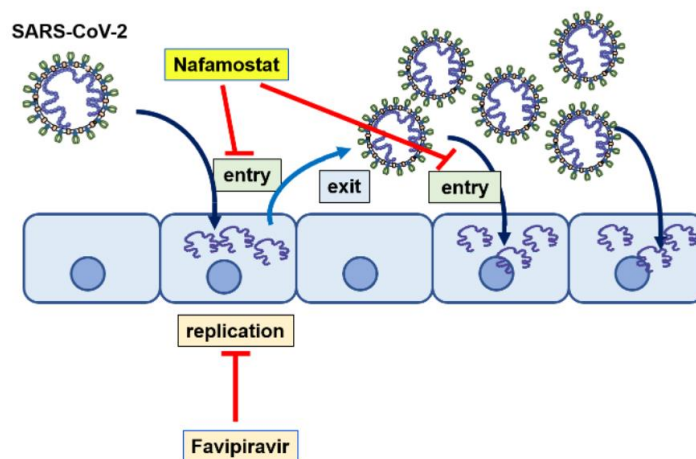
Nano Select 2021-3-1

wileyonlinelibrary.com/journal/nano | 1

# Combination Therapy will be the Future of COVID Treatment



- Nafamostat inhibits viral entry into cells while other agents, such as inhibitors of viral RNA polymerase, inhibit replication



- Recent Phase 2 study demonstrated sickest COVID patients had higher recovery rate with nafamostat + SOC (61%) compared to SOC alone (11%)

ELSEVIER

journal homepage: <https://www.journals.elsevier.com/eclinicalmedicine>

Research paper

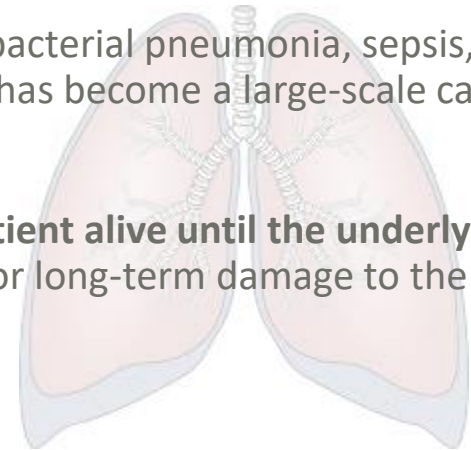
Nafamostat in hospitalized patients with moderate to severe COVID-19 pneumonia: a randomised Phase II clinical trial

Sergey V Zhuravel<sup>a,\*</sup>, Oleg K Khmelnskiy<sup>b</sup>, Oleg O Burlaka<sup>c</sup>, Alexey I Gritsan<sup>d</sup>, Boris M Goloshchekin<sup>e</sup>, Seieun Kim<sup>f</sup>, Ka Young Hong<sup>f</sup>

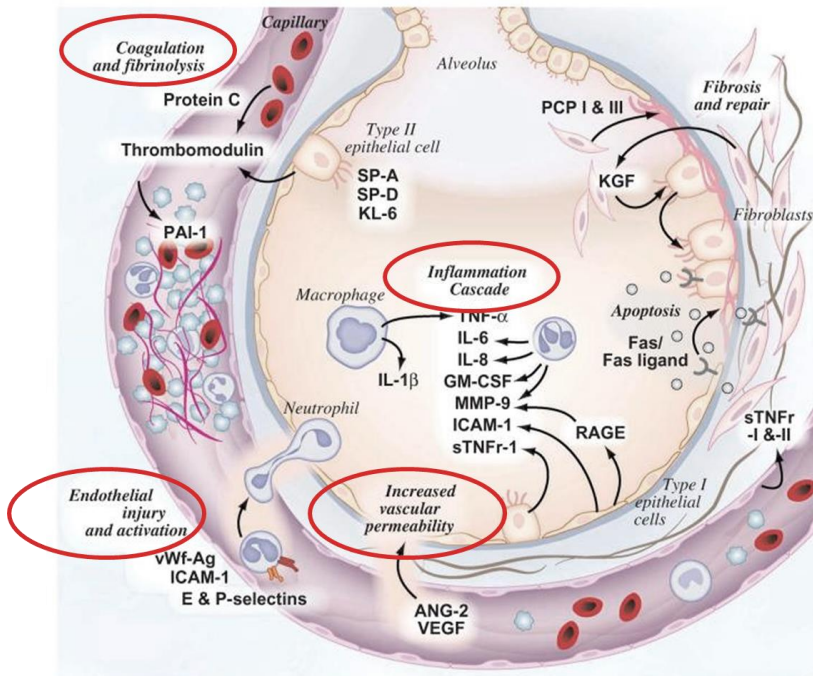
# Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) Overview

ARDS is a life-threatening lung injury that allows fluid to leak into the lungs

- ARDS typically occurs as a result of another condition, such as bacterial pneumonia, sepsis, systemic infections, aspiration, or trauma. Recently, COVID-19 has become a large-scale cause of ARDS
- The goal of current ARDS treatment is primarily to **keep the patient alive until the underlying etiology can be resolved**, and secondarily to prevent medium-or long-term damage to the lungs



## Key pathways and proteomic changes involved in ARDS pathogenesis



## Nafamostat modes of action in ARDS

- Anticoagulation
- Anti-inflammation
- Sustaining endothelial barrier function/preventing vascular leak

# Final Q & A Session