

Therapeutic Potential of Multi-Incretin Therapy - From mice to men



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Aimo Kannt leads the research activities of Sanofi in the area of comorbidities and complications of diabetes, with a specific focus on diabetic kidney disease (DKD) and non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH). He has 17 years of experience within the pharmaceutical industry in different scientific and leadership roles.

Aimo studied biochemistry at the Universities of Tübingen and Cambridge (UK) and did his PhD and post-doctoral work in the group of Nobel laureate Hartmut Michel at the Max-Planck-Institute of Biophysics. He has authored numerous publications and patent applications and presented at major international meetings. He is a member of the management board of major public-private consortia such as BEAt-DKD or PreciNASH in the fields of DKD and NASH, respectively, and a lecturer at Heidelberg University Medical School.

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The growing prevalence of obesity and its sequelae such as type-2 diabetes or fatty liver disease is a major threat to public health. Available pharmacological treatment options – especially for obesity and non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH) – are scarce, modestly efficacious and, in part, associated with unfavorable benefit-risk profiles. In the light of the multifactorial nature of these disorders, combination therapy addressing several metabolic risk factors in parallel offers the potential to enhance treatment efficacy and improve sustainability.

Based on the incretin hormone glucagon-like peptide 1 (GLP-1), dual- or triple-agonistic peptides have been designed and generated that target additional receptors such as those of glucagon or glucose-dependent insulinotropic peptide (GIP). Compared to GLP-1 monotherapy, these peptides have demonstrated superior effects on body weight, glucose levels and hepatic steatosis. In my talk, I will give an overview of available pre-clinical data in rodents and non-human primates and emerging results of clinical

studies for such multi-agonistic peptides. In addition, I will touch on potential molecular mechanisms and challenges for design and development of unimolecular polyagonists.