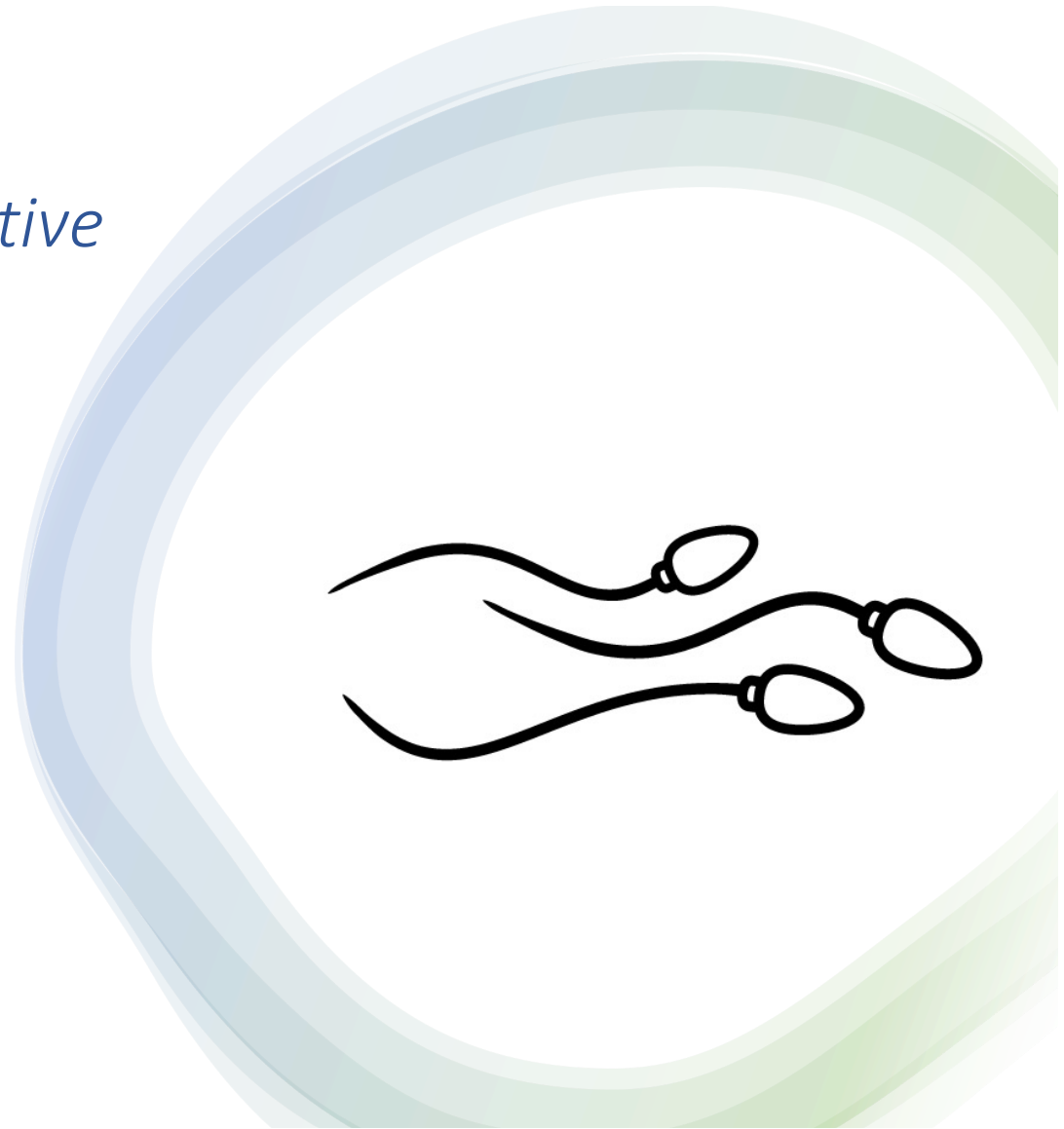


The CatSper Male Contraceptive

Jean-Ju Chung, PhD
Associate Professor
Dept. of Cellular & Molecular Physiology
Yale University

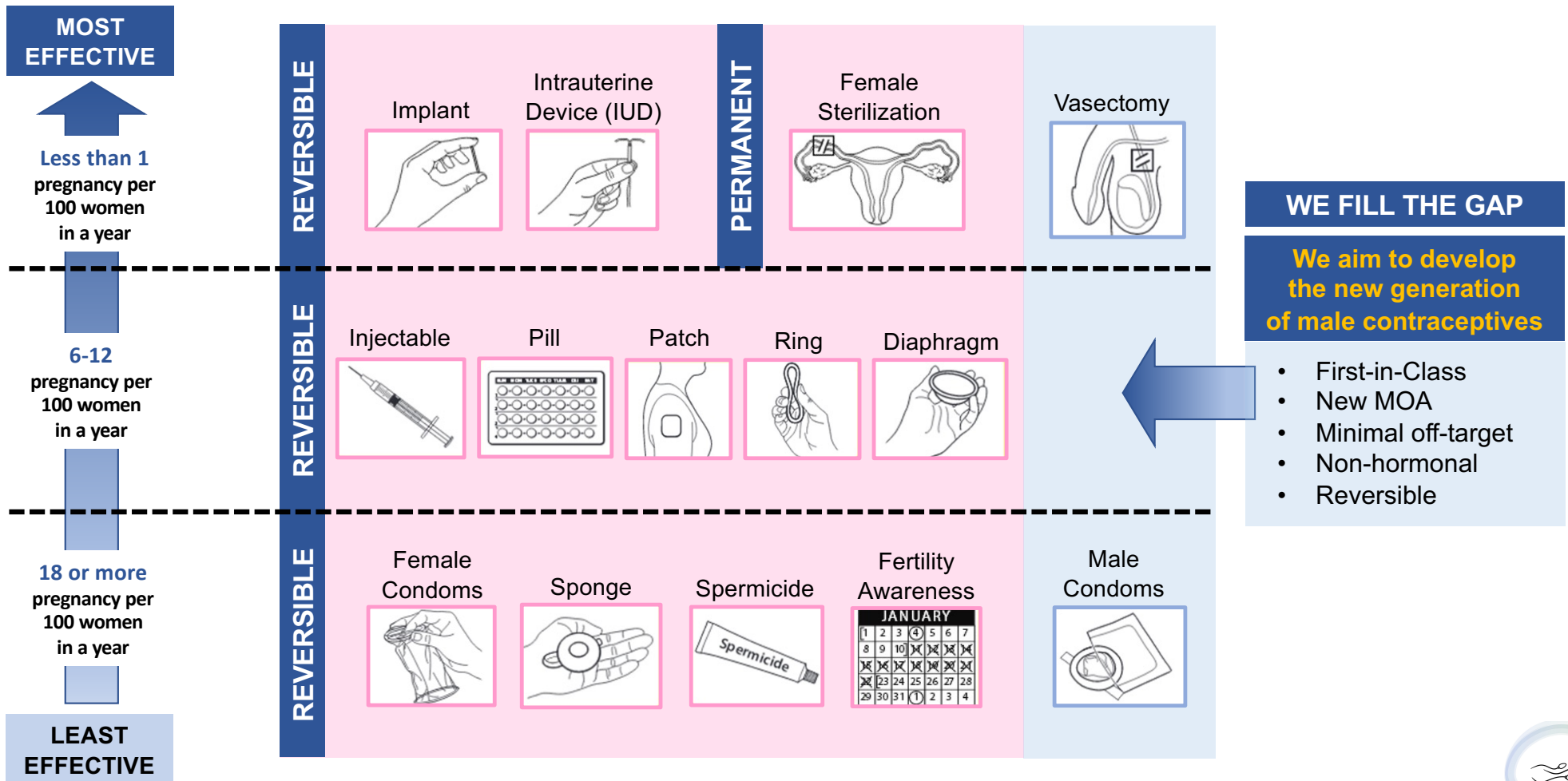




120+ Million Unintended Pregnancies
Occur globally each year



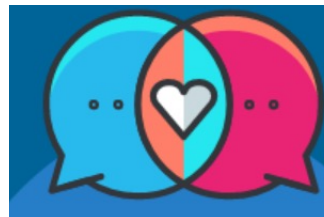
Men lack contraceptive options to equally participate in family planning



Society is ready for the next male contraceptive – Science needs to catch up!

81%

Of men say they would use a non-conventional male birth control¹



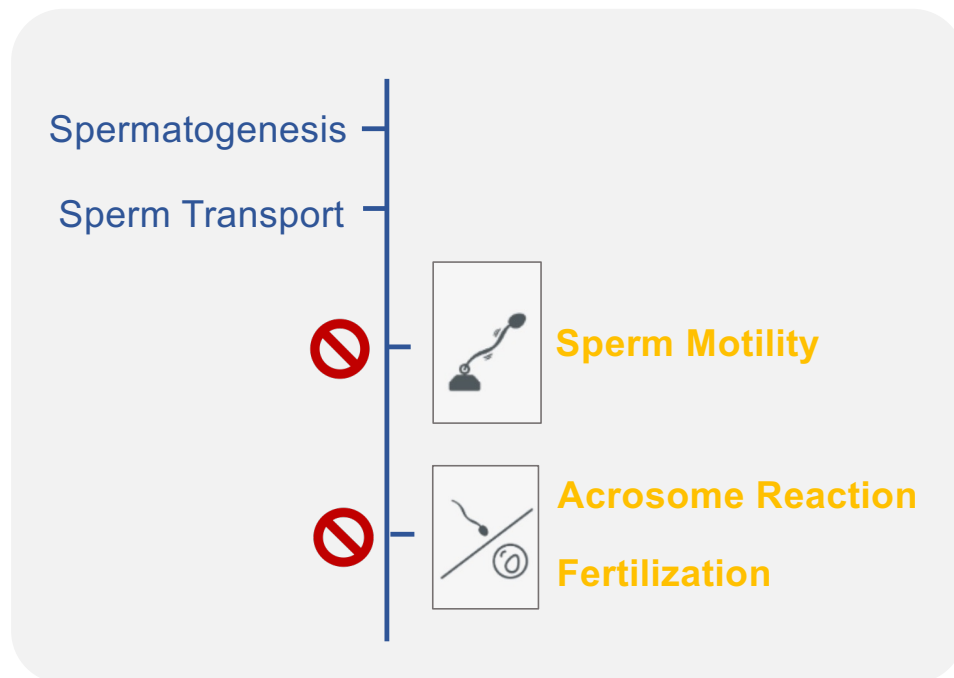
U.S. Contraceptive Market Size Worth \$10 Billion by 2027²

According to **Global Market Insights**
“If a new male contraceptive method is approved in the next five years,
the market is projected to be about **\$1 billion by 2024**
and could **grow at a rate of 6%** over the next 10 years³”
AND birth control methods are covered by **insurance plans**

¹Consumer Research Study, Male Contraceptive Initiative (2019); ²Windsperger AP., et al. 2012; Grand View Research. Dec 2020; ³Ugalmugle et al., 2019.



What is the ideal target for a male contraceptive?



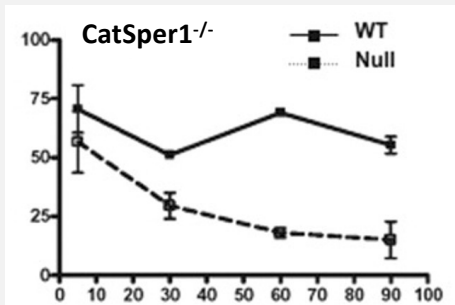
Ideal Target :

Non-hormonal
Reversible
Minimal off-target



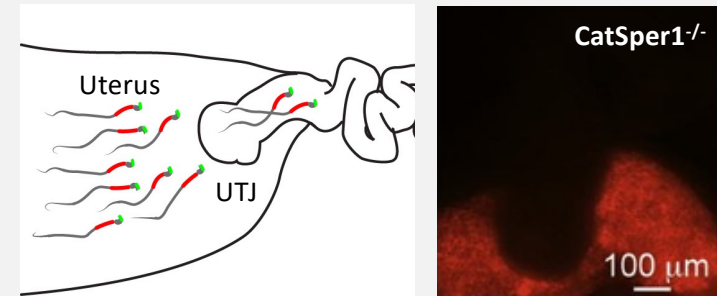
CatSper is necessary for sperm motility and egg fertilization

1. Sperm motility endurance



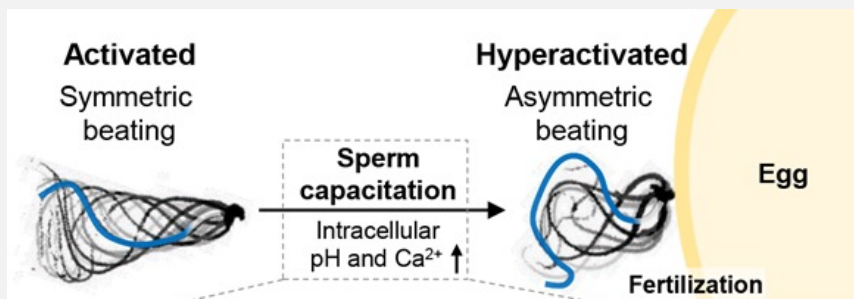
Similar results for CatSper2^{-/-}, 3^{-/-}, and 4^{-/-}

2. Crossing Utero Tubal Junction (UTJ)



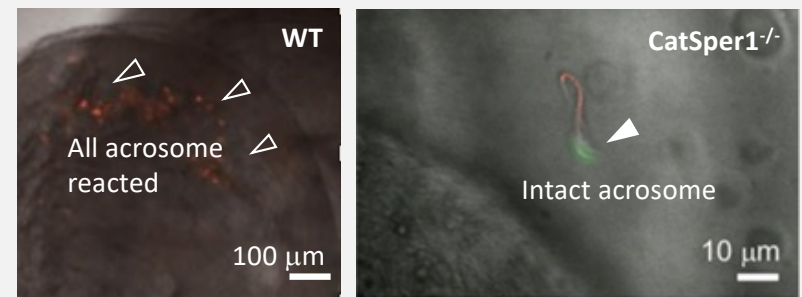
No sperm in the tubule when mated with CatSper1^{-/-} male

3. Hyperactivated asymmetric beating



No asymmetric beating develops in CatSper^{-/-} sperm

4. Acrosome reaction

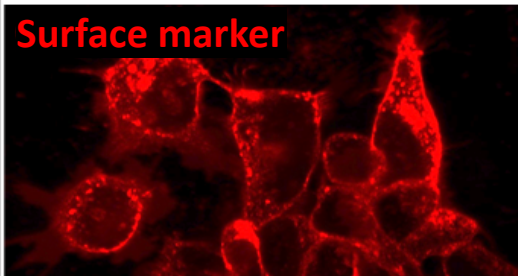


No acrosome reaction when mated with CatSper1^{-/-} male

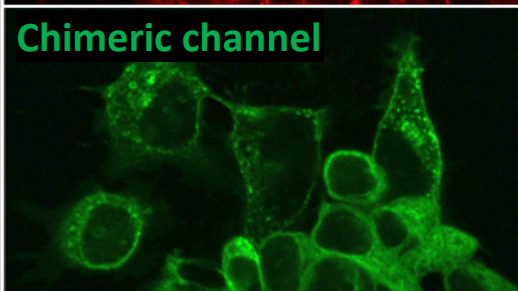
We developed the technology for CatSper drug screening

Chimeric CatSper-EGFP

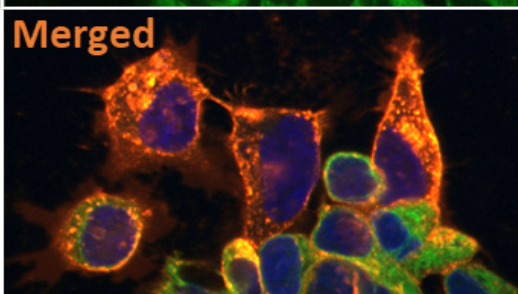
Surface marker



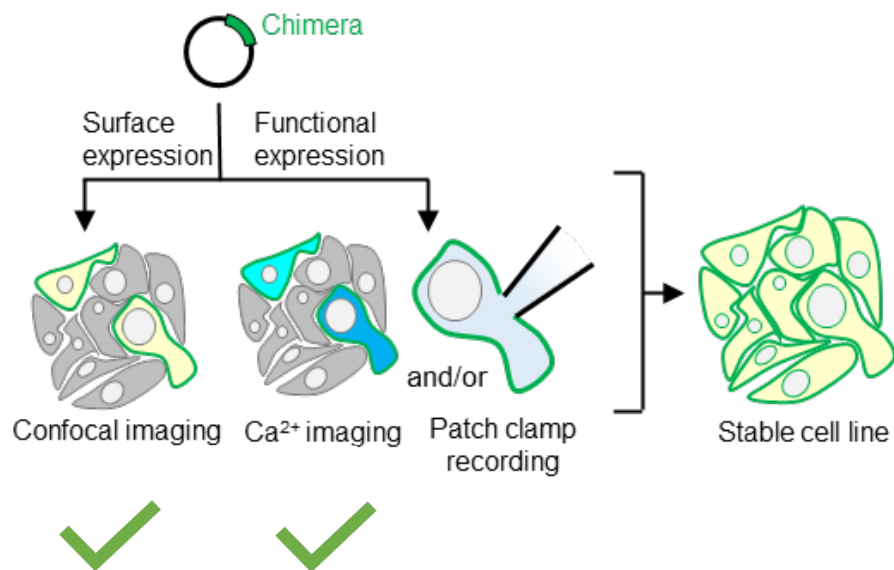
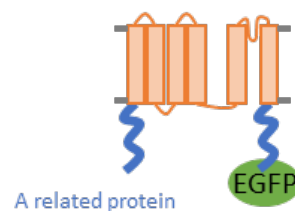
Chimeric channel



Merged

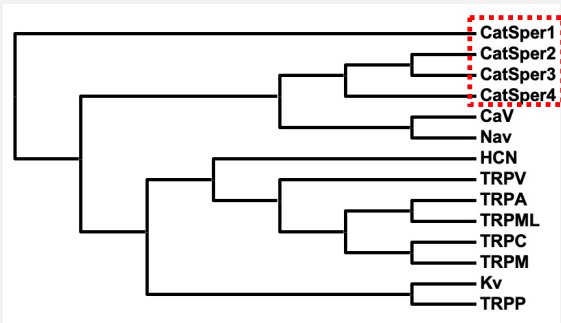


Novel
Chimeric CatSper

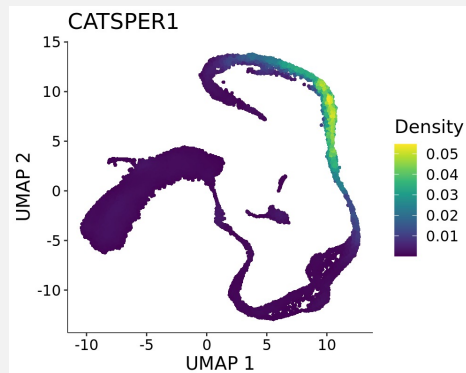
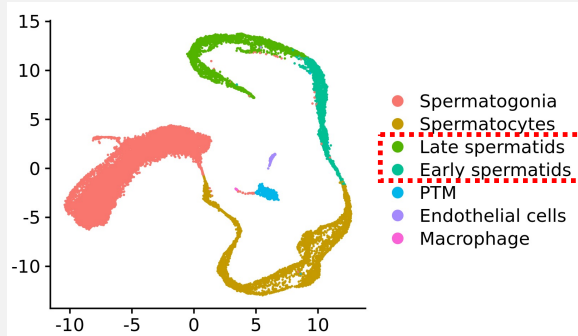


CatSper inhibition is expected to have minimum or non-existent side effects

CatSper underwent rapid evolution and functional divergence compared to other Ca^{2+} channels

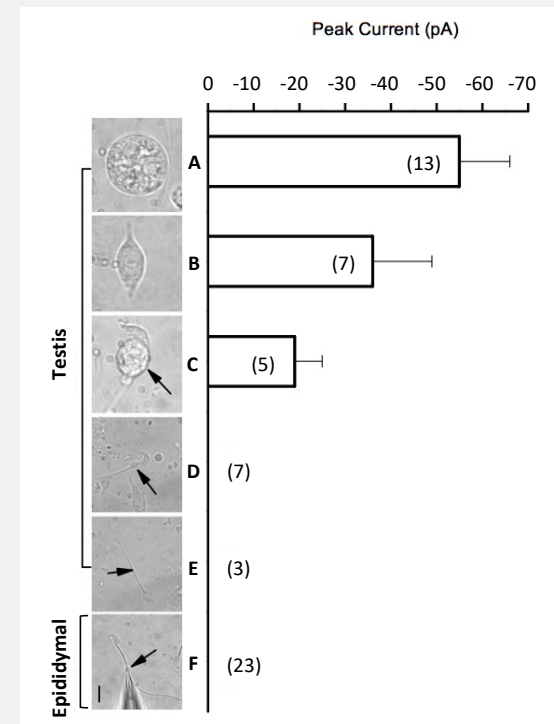


CatSper is only expressed in post-meiotic male germ cells



Similar results for CatSper2, 3, and 4

CatSper is the primary Ca^{2+} channel in sperm cells



The Team



Jean-Ju Chung, PhD

Associate Professor
Dept. of Cellular & Molecular Physiology
Yale School of Medicine

CatSper Global Authority



Melisa Lopez-Anton, PhD

Blavatnik Fellow at Yale University
Scientist in Cancer Biology
Entrepreneur

Entrepreneur / Science

High-impact Scientific Publications



A novel gene required for male fertility and functional CATSPER channel formation in spermatozoa

Jean-Ju Chung^{1,2}, Betsy Navarro^{1,2}, Grigory Krapivinsky^{1,2}, Luba Krapivinsky^{1,2} & David E. Clapham^{1,2}

Cell

Structurally Distinct Ca²⁺ Signaling Domains of Sperm Flagella Orchestrate Tyrosine Phosphorylation and Motility

Jean-Ju Chung^{1,2,3}, Sang-Hee Shim^{4,5,6}, Robert A. Everley³, Steven P. Gygi³, Xiaowei Zhuang^{4,5,6} and David E. Clapham^{1,2,3}

Cell

Dual Sensing of Physiologic pH and Calcium by EFCAB9 Regulates Sperm Motility

Authors

Jae Yeon Hwang, Nadja Mannowetz, Yongdeng Zhang, ..., Joerg Bewersdorf, Polina V. Lishko, Jean-Ju Chung

eLife

3D in situ imaging of the female reproductive tract reveals molecular signatures of fertilizing spermatozoa in mice

Lukas Ded^{1,2}, Jae Yeon Hwang¹, Kiyoshi Miki³, Huanan F Shi¹, Jean-Ju Chung^{1,4*}

Research Awards for this Project

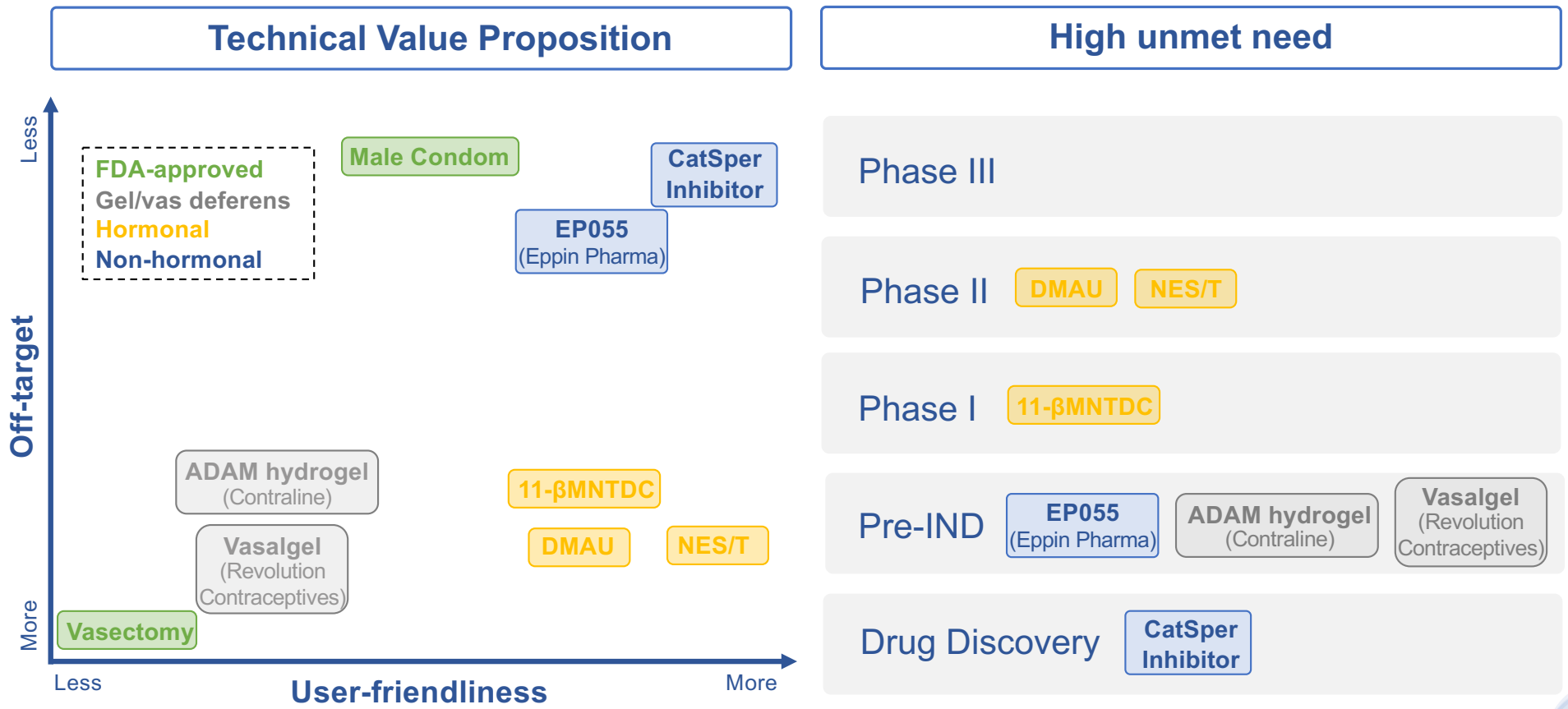


David Sokal Innovation Awards (2021)

\$150K over two years



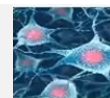
CatSper Inhibitor compares favorably to current and future male birth control methods



Discovery Process and Future Plans with Blavatnik Fund

Cell Biology

- ✓ In house expertise on CatSper
- ✓ Cell-based assay for CatSper Ca^{+2} channel FLIPR-HTS
- ✓ Assays for two other Ca^{+2} channel FLIPR-HTS (counter-screening)
 - Generation reporter cell lines
 - Ready-to-go assay characterization



\$100K

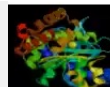
High-Throughput Screening (In house YCMD)

- Pilot screening
- Primary screening
- Data analysis for hit identification
- Hit confirmation



Compound Profiling and Hit Follow-up

- Activity Determination ($\text{EC}_{50}/\text{IC}_{50}$)
- Preliminary SAR analysis
- Assays and tests on two related targets
- Cardiac safety profiling and liability screen



\$200K

ADME and Formulation

- *In vitro* ADME and preformulation (6 compounds)
- Formulation development and ASD development (1 compound)
- Mouse PK study (1 compound)

