Rare Bootcamp™

Rare Disease Clinical Trial Design

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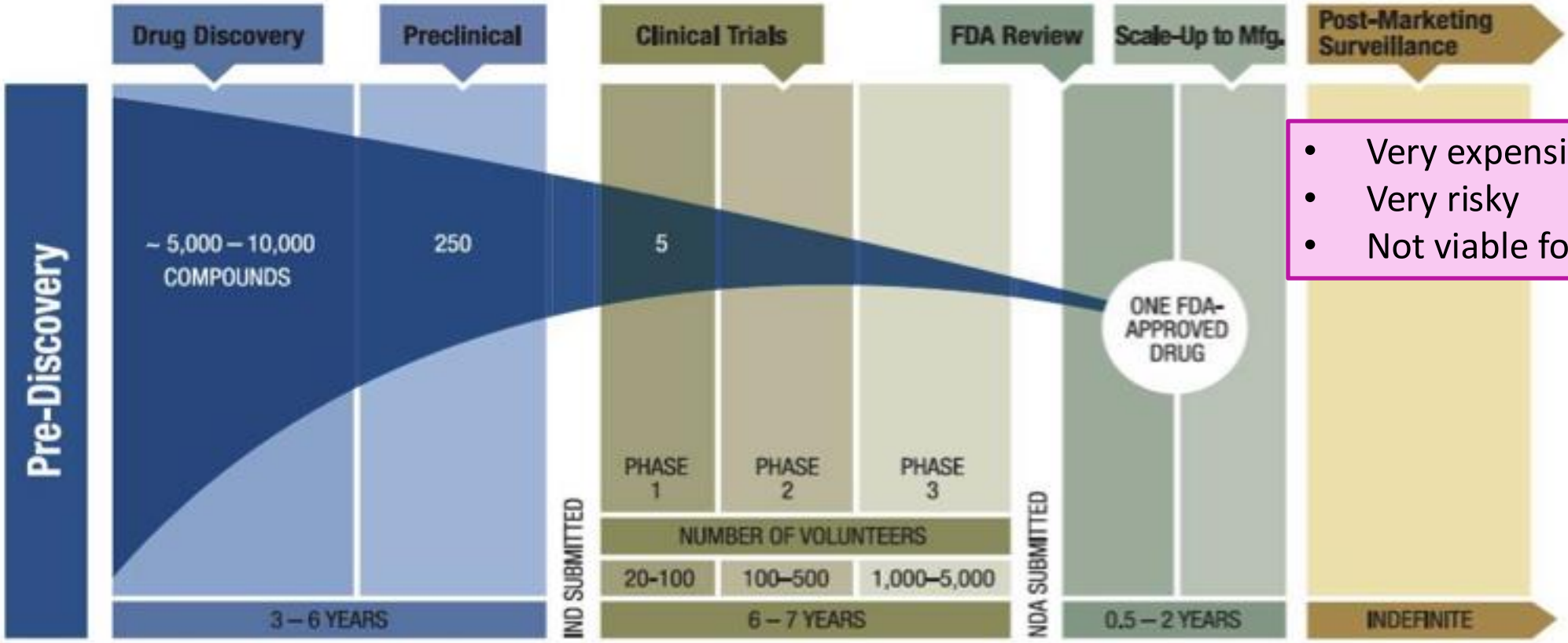
Traditional Drug Development is Not Practical for Rare Diseases



- Very expensive
- Very risky
- Not viable for rare diseases

Rare Disease Drug Development has Unique Challenges and Opportunities

Challenges

- Limited understanding of disease natural history
- Limited clinical study or regulatory experience
- Development strategy can be very different
- The combination of unknowns can paralyze decision-making and delay programs
- Learning without preparation and insight can result in stress, time delays and drug failure
- Difficulties in powering a study with small sample sizes

Opportunities

- Clear disease biology, often with a single gene defect, simplifying drug discovery and shortening preclinical testing timelines
- Highly motivated patients and families
- Phase 1 and 2 can usually be combined
- Regulatory agencies may be open to novel and surrogate efficacy endpoints
- Payers may accept higher per-patient treatment costs due to small patient population
- Expedited regulatory review

Challenges can be Overcome with Dynamic Development

- Learn as you progress through development stages
  - Be humble and open to discovering the truth
  - Be willing to challenge well-established facts
  - Seek knowledge from patients and study data, not just advisory boards
  - Start with patient interviews, disease burden surveys, and clinical survey studies
- Invent when necessary to create the right tools or strategy
  - Take a bold and creative approach to study design, endpoints, and statistics when necessary
  - Invent only what needs to be invented – this is always more work and time consuming, but benefits will be long lasting and can improve probability of success
- Hedge by opening multiple paths to win and manage risk
  - Learn and adapt from your data, be ready to change course
  - Anticipate risks and create hedges
  - Open multiple paths to win

All Stakeholders Have Needs That Must Be Met

Who	What they need	How you can give it to them
Patients and their families	• Access to life-changing therapy as soon as possible	• Listen and learn how the disease affects their lives • Design practical clinical trials that **measure what really matters to patients**
Physicians, Key Opinion Leaders	• Authorship on publications • Research funds • Ability to treat their patients with new therapies	• Advisory boards • Involve them in study design • Selection as investigators in clinical trials
Regulators (FDA, EMA, etc)	• To protect patients and approve drugs only after convincing data show a favorable risk-benefit	• **Educate them** about the disease • **Frequent meetings** to align on development strategy, including efficacy endpoints • Bring patients to meetings
Payers (Insurance companies, HMOs, Public Health Insurance)	• Attenuate spiraling healthcare costs	• **Collect data that can show reduced healthcare costs** for patients if the therapy works
Study Sponsor, including company shareholders	• Investments in drugs that have the potential to grow the business	• Establish proof-of-concept ASAP • Demonstrate high unmet need • **Shortest possible development timelines**

What are approvable efficacy endpoints?

A clinically meaningful change in the way a patient **feels**, **functions**, or **survives**

- Dr. Robert Temple, FDA

A surrogate endpoint used for accelerated approval is a marker - a laboratory measurement, radiographic image, physical sign or other measure that is thought **to predict clinical benefit**, but is not itself a measure of clinical benefit.

-FDA Overview of Accelerated Approval

It turns out that what is really bothering the patient and what is really bothering the doctor can be radically different things….patients are true experts in their disease.

- Dr. Janet Woodcock, FDA

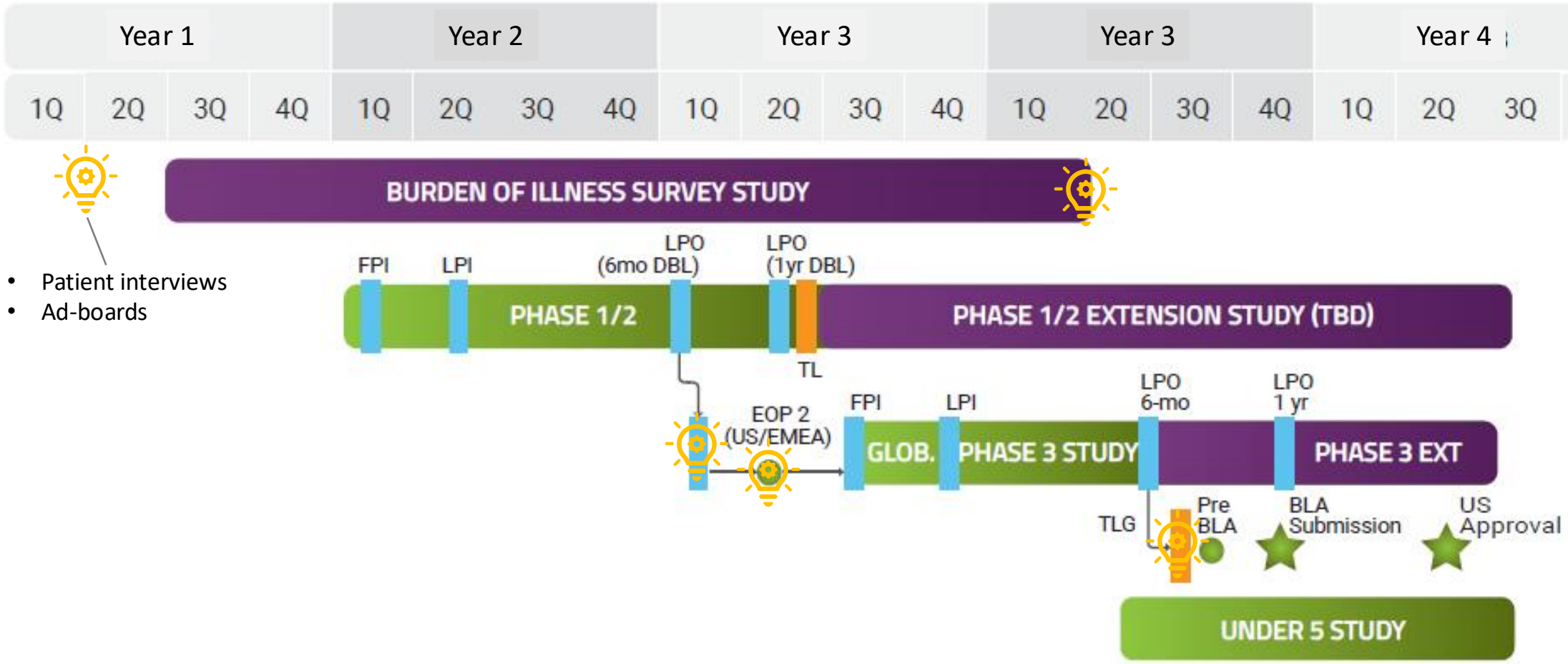
The FDA doesn't have to get to 100% certainty between an accelerated approval endpoint and a clinical endpoint

-Dr. Peter Marks, FDA

How to Pick Efficacy Endpoints

- Identify potential endpoints during preclinical phase by gathering as much information as possible from patients
- Evaluate many potential endpoints in phase 1/2
    - Phase 2 is for learning; phase 3 is for verifying
    - Phase 2 design should be creative and adaptive
- Evaluate as broad of a patient population as possible in phase 1/2
- Pair primary clinical physiologic (intermediate) endpoints with complementary secondary functional patient-reported outcomes (PROs)
- Use continuous variables whenever possible
    - Avoid dichotomous variables such as responder analyses
- Consider a novel biomarker as a primary endpoint
- A multi-domain responder index may be needed when disease manifestations are highly variable

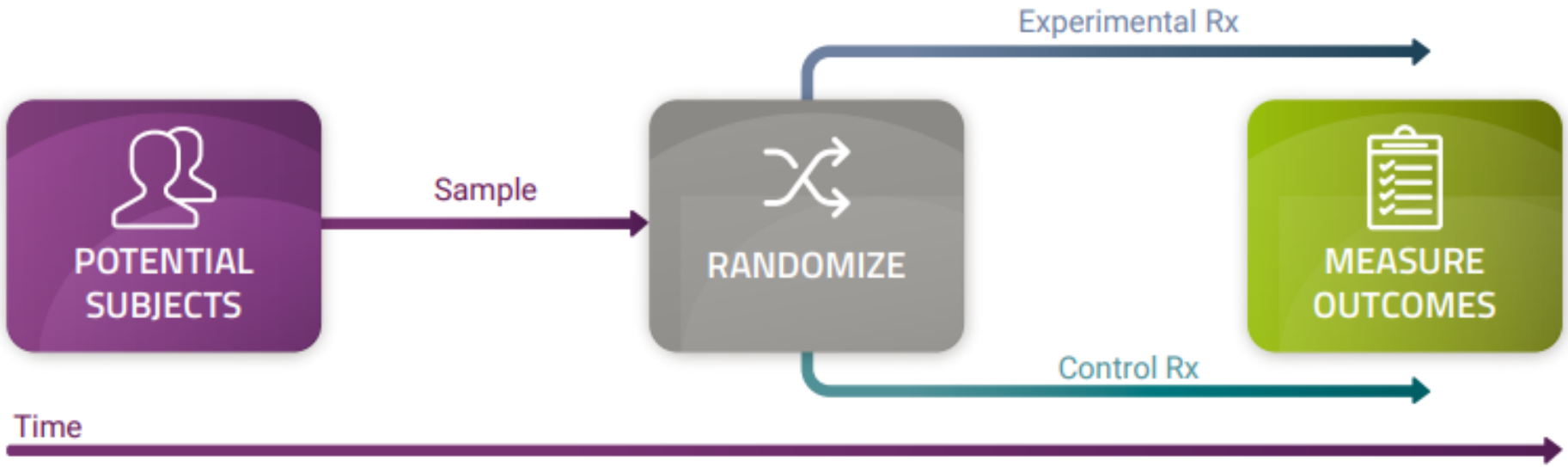
Keep Learning and Aligning with Regulatory Agencies Throughout the Drug Development Process



Key Considerations in Study Design

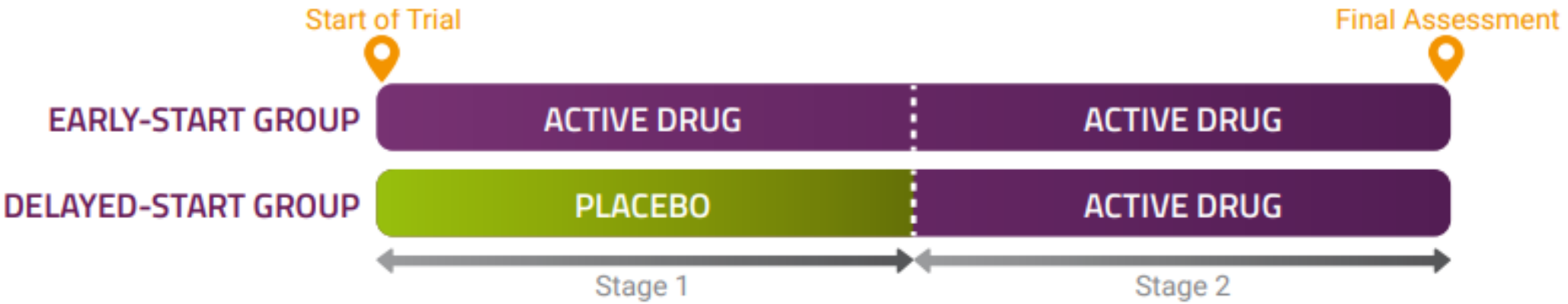
1. What is the purpose of the study?
    - A first exploration without any chance of filing?
    - A phase 2 learn study that is potentially fileable?
    - A pivotal phase 3 study for approval?
2. How will the dose and treatment regimen be defined and managed?
    - Fixed dose regimen?
    - Adaptable dose regimen based on pharmacodynamic assessments?
    - Adaptable according to key safety or efficacy endpoints?
3. What is the control group strategy?
4. Who is the included population?
    - Must have treatable disease that is measurable in the allotted time frame
    - Consider age, gender, genetics, severity of disease, severity of a given endpoint, and probability of benefit.
    - Consider also that some populations are difficult to measure, such as patients <5 years or old patients that are very severe and very few in number – these populations can be studied in nonqualifying companion studies

Randomized Controlled Trial



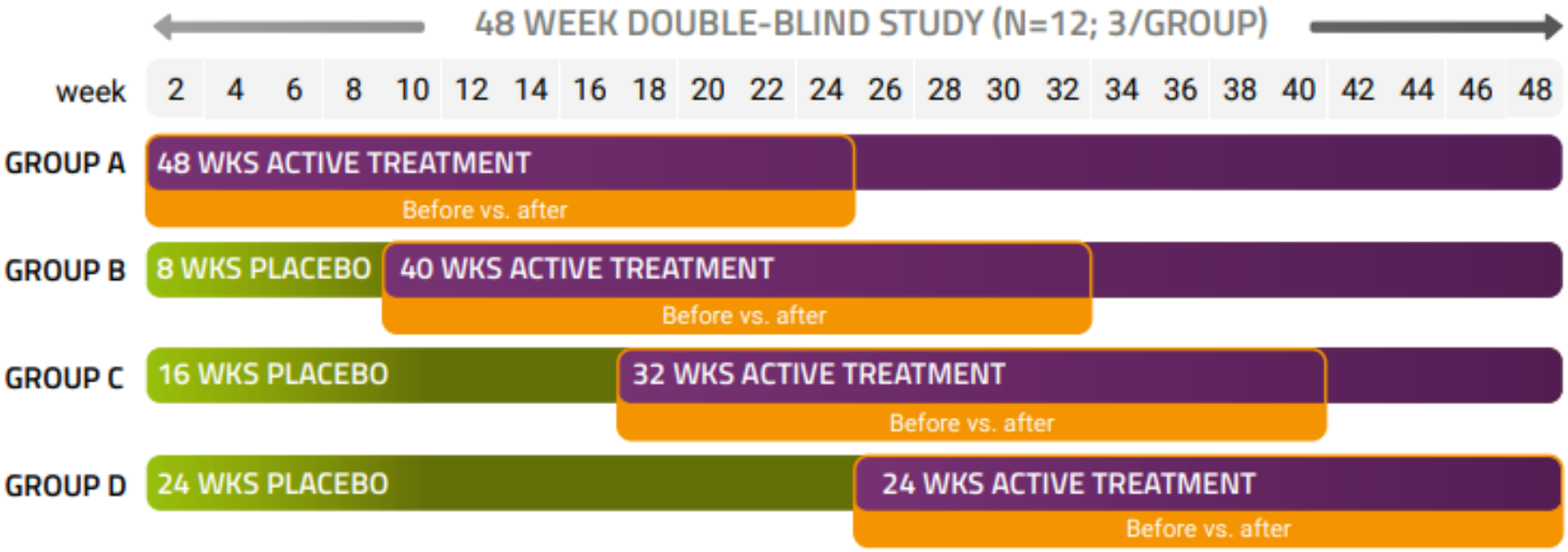
- Minimizes bias, especially when double-blind
- Most favored by global regulatory authorities and payers
- Can be difficult to power in rare diseases where sample sizes are small
- Sometimes blinding of treatment allocation is impossible
- Interim analysis can be used for sample size re-estimation without sacrificing power

Randomized Delayed Start



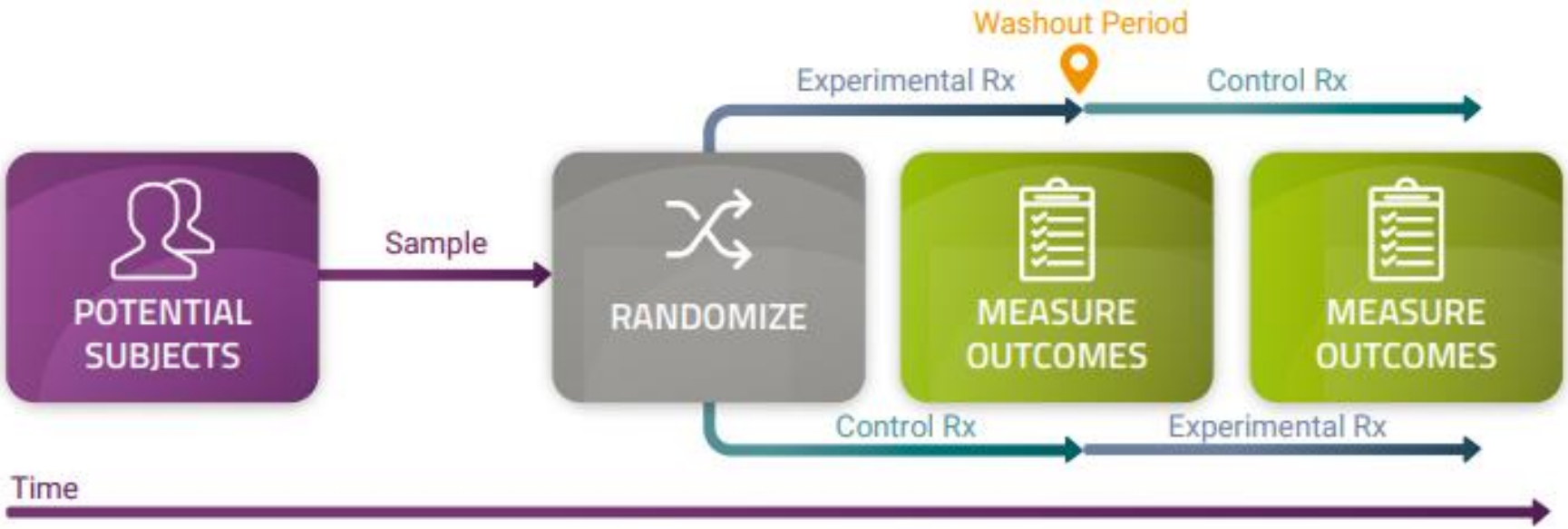
- Stage 1 may be a R/DB/PC trial
- Ensures all subjects eventually have access to study drug, facilitating recruitment
- The short amount of time spent on placebo can underestimate the treatment effect, resulting in larger sample size requirements
- Susceptible to dropouts during the placebo phase, which may limit the interpretation to Stage 1 data

Blind Start Trial



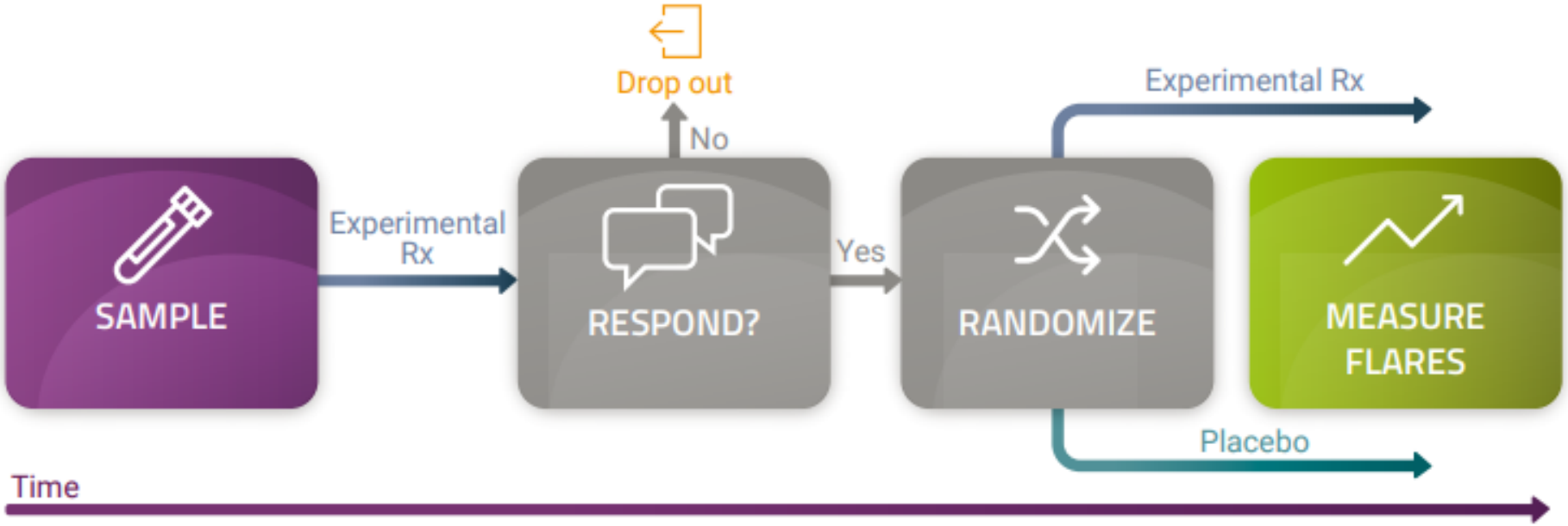
- A fancy type of randomized delayed-start trial
- Increases power for detecting effects when there are small sample sizes
- Creates better retention of blinding than a single delayed start design
- Results from before and after treatment and/or placebo are compared within subject and between groups

Double Crossover Trial



- Maximum use of subjects for data generation and within-patient comparisons
- You must already know the duration of treatment needed to show efficacy, the timeframe for carry-over effects to disappear, and the placebo effect size
- Best-suited for biochemical endpoints that respond rapidly

Randomized Withdrawal Trial



- Useful when response rate is modest, and dose must be titrated for each subject
- Useful if there is a large placebo effect
- Treatment period must be long enough to reach a new stable state
- Difficult to assess long-term safety without safety comparator arm

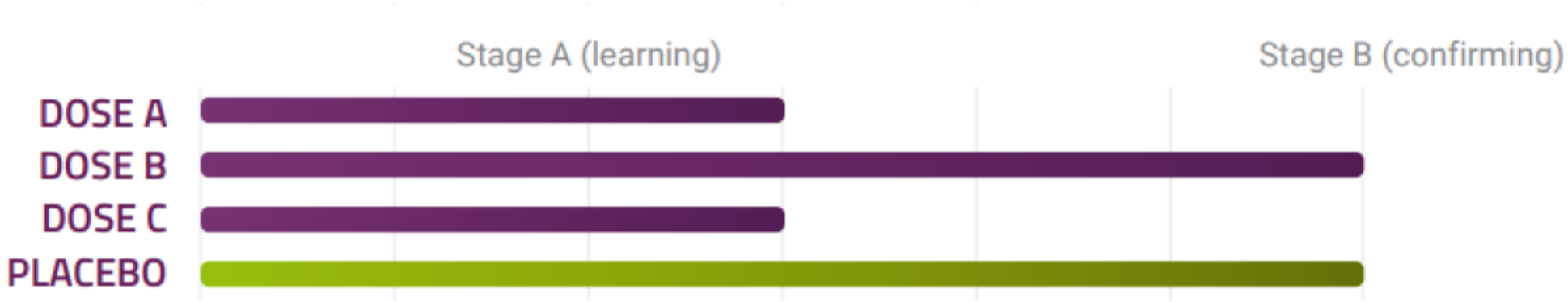
N of 1 Trial

- Power can be created with very small sample size if the response correlates with treatment
- Subject acts as their own control, confounding and variance are minimized
- Provides highly personalized data on whether a given intervention works for a particular subject
- Meta-analysis of n-of-1 trials is limited by heterogeneity of outcomes in individual trials
- Require validated, repeatable measures of treatment effects, such as biomarkers

Non-controlled Open-Label Trial

- Vulnerable to placebo effect
- Outcomes are typically compared to a robust natural history study with similar patient characteristics
- Generally, not accepted by regulatory agencies except in diseases where survival is known to be very poor and life-saving effects are clear

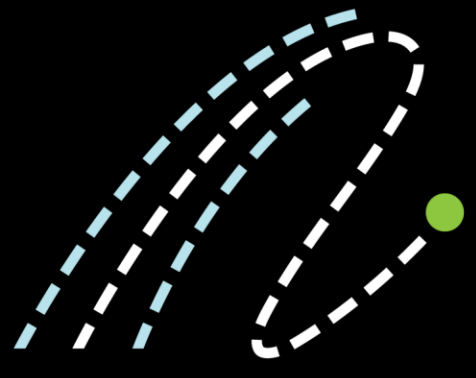
Seamless and Adaptive Trials



- Both stages are conducted in a single protocol
- As the data from Stage A are analyzed and a dose is selected, that dose along with the placebo group are brought forward with new set of patients
- The biggest advantage is savings in the operational activities
- Requires adequate drug supply and a mature manufacturing process early in development

Summary

- A dynamic development strategy is key to finding a path forward to approval
  - Learn throughout the process and be ready to change course
  - Invent when needed – challenge precedents and dogma
  - Hedge your bets – pursue multiple endpoints in parallel
- Consider needs of all stakeholders
- Learn as much as possible from patients and partner with them
- When possible, measure how a patient feels, functions, and survives
- Meet with regulators frequently, and educate them
- The selection of study design depends on disease characteristics, patient characteristics, response pattern, duration of effect, expected recruitment rate
- Develop novel endpoints when necessary (which is often the case)



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Thank You