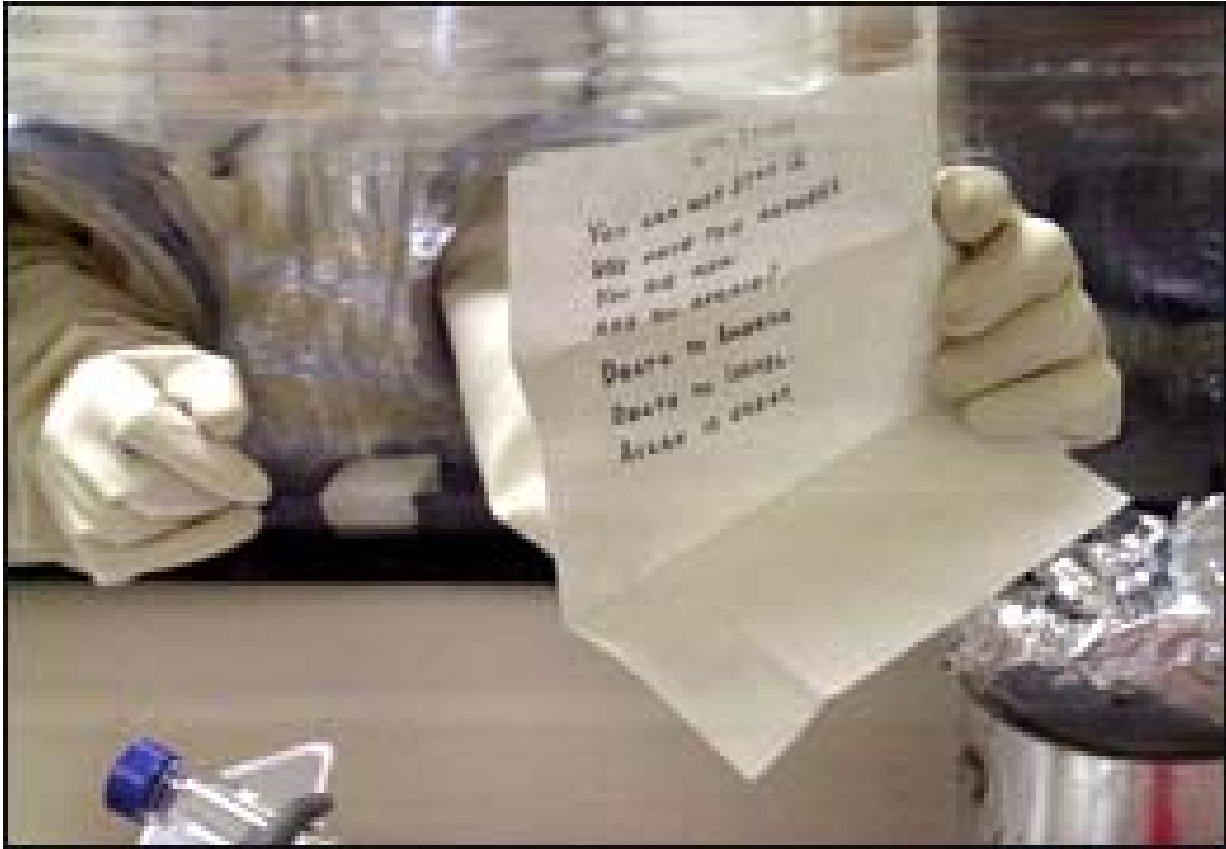# Lessons Learned in Animal Model Development: Inhalational Anthrax

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Research Leader, Battelle

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Disclosure Statement: Battelle is a non-profit organization that that provides contracted research services to numerous government and commercial Sponsors. The speaker has no financial conflicts of interest.

The Unmet Medical Need

- Developing Medical Countermeasures (MCMs) against anthrax

  - Vaccines

    - BioThrax (AVA)

    - rPA

    - Spore coat proteins

  - Antimicrobials

    - Traditional

    - Novel

  - Antibody Passive Protection

    - mAbs

    - Immune globulin

  - Treatment Indication

    - GUP, PEP, Tx

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# Understanding the Mechanisms of Pathology
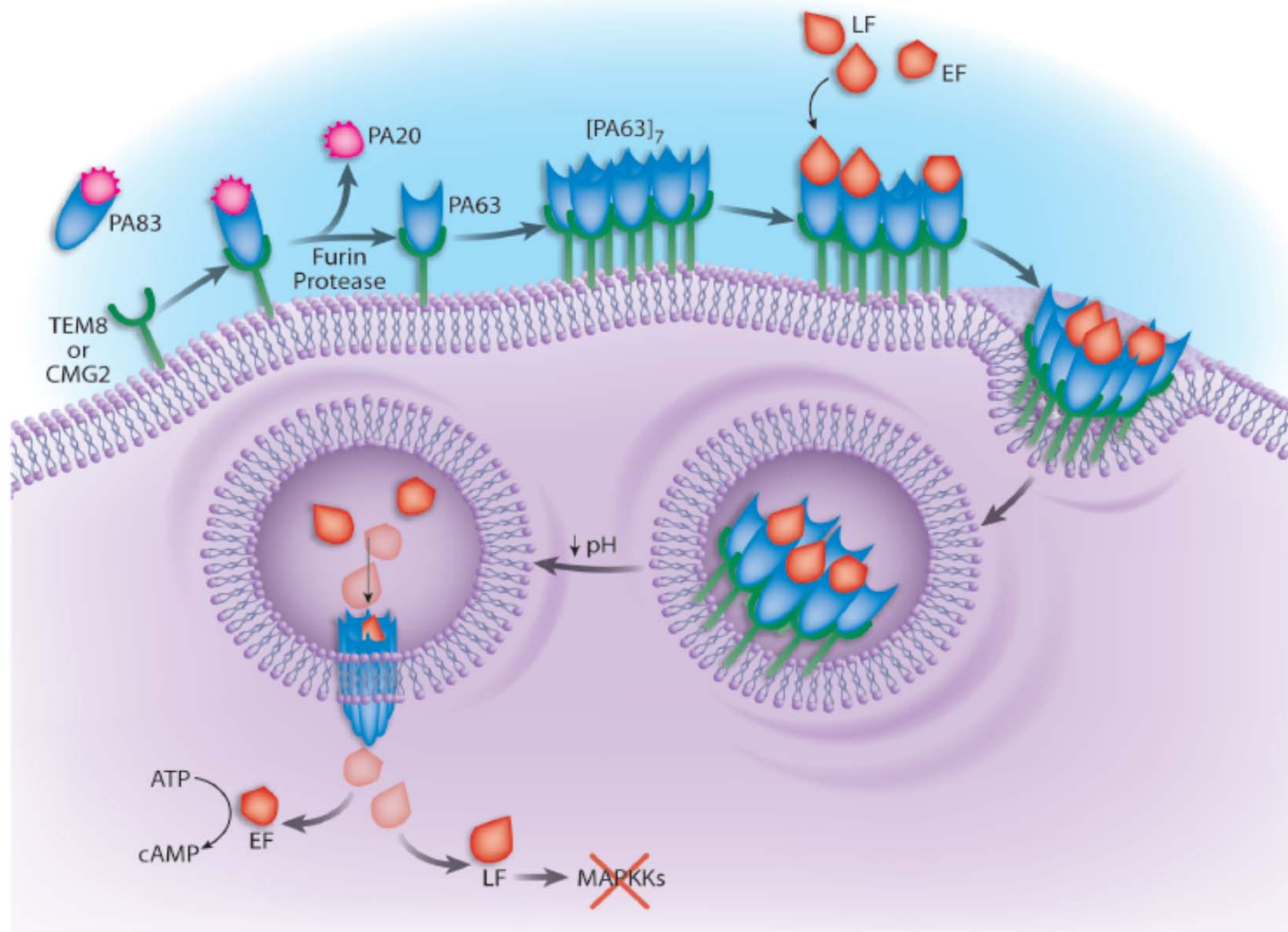
Modeling Therapeutic Treatment (Tx)

Products: Monoclonal Antibodies, Polyclonal Antibodies, Antimicrobial Agents

Requirements:

- Define the disease
  - Clinical signs of illness – non-specific indicators
  - Diagnostics – specific indicators
- Mimic the clinical scenario
  - Clinical presentation
  - Appropriate timing of MCM intervention
  - Our understanding of clinical scenario is based on historical outcomes of Sverdlovsk release in 1979 and 2001 Amerithrax cases
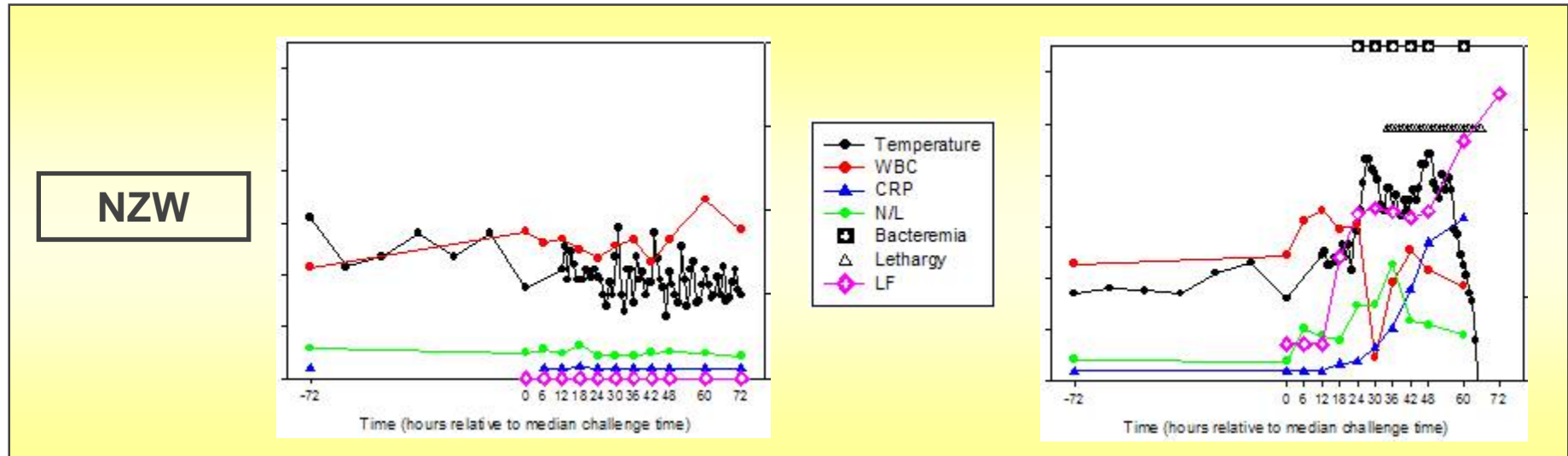
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Defining the Disease
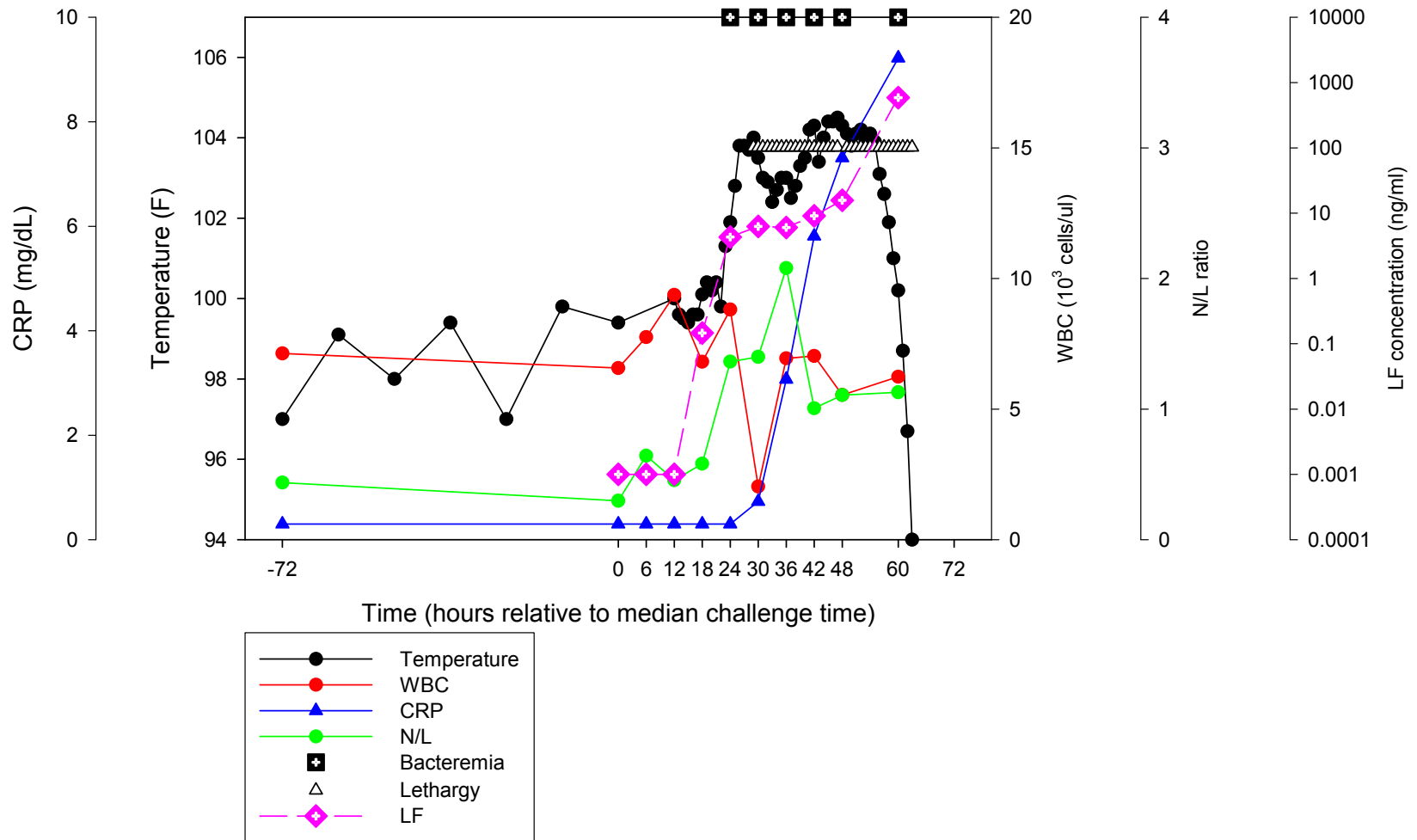
Clinical Profile of Inhalational Anthrax

Unchallenged   **Challenged**

NZW

Legend:
- Temperature
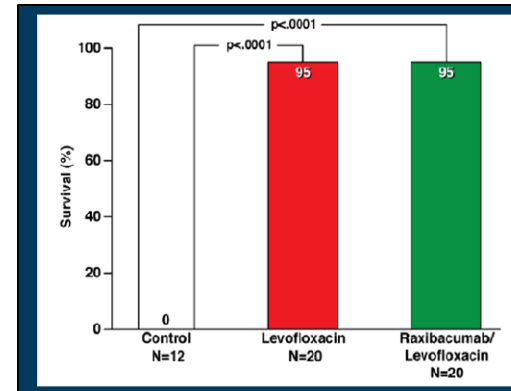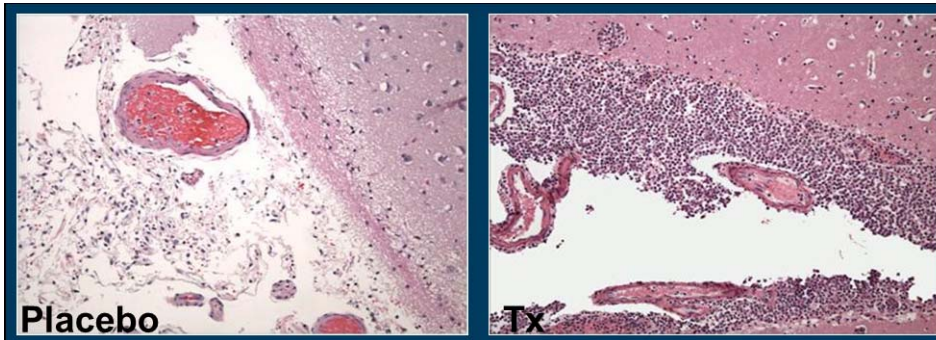- WBC
- CRP
- N/L
- Bacteremia
- Lethargy
- LF

Next Steps

- Demonstrate anthrax antitoxin treatment following confirmation of disease is effective
- Evaluate the PK of antitoxin in the context of the disease

Constraints

- Traditional diagnosis was impractical – "surrogate" Dx assay was required.
- Limitations in data collection – prioritizing data type was necessary.

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Raxibacumab – Demonstrating Effectiveness

www.fda.gov; Migone et al. New England Journal of Medicine. 2009 July 9; 361(2): 135-144

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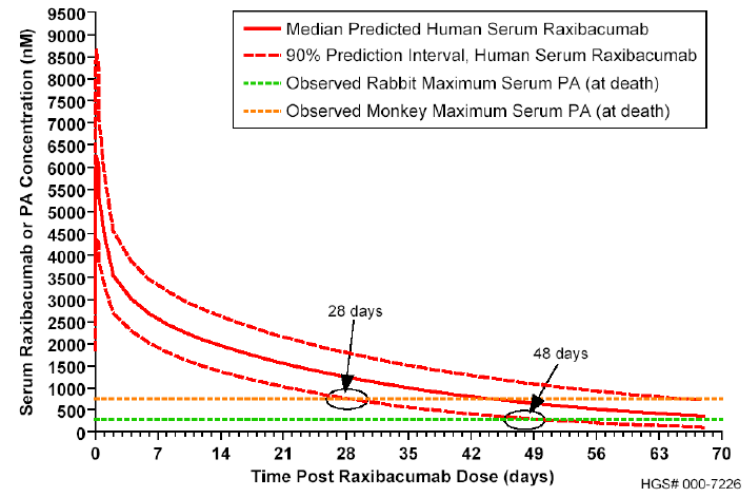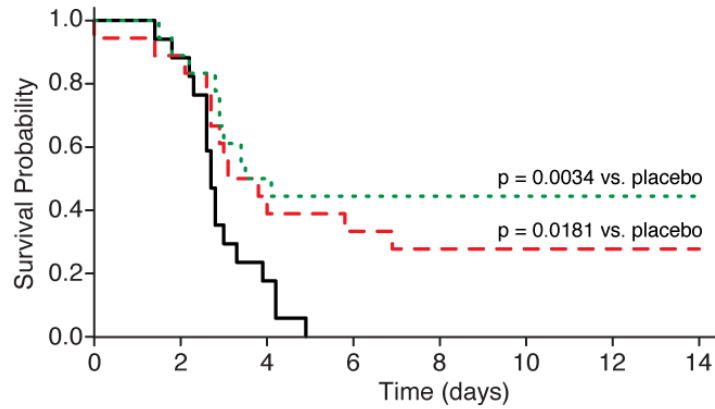
Clinical Relevance – Added Benefit

Goal

– Demonstrate anthrax antitoxin adds benefit to antimicrobial treatment alone

Constraints

– Marginal (~50%) outcome following treatment with antibiotic
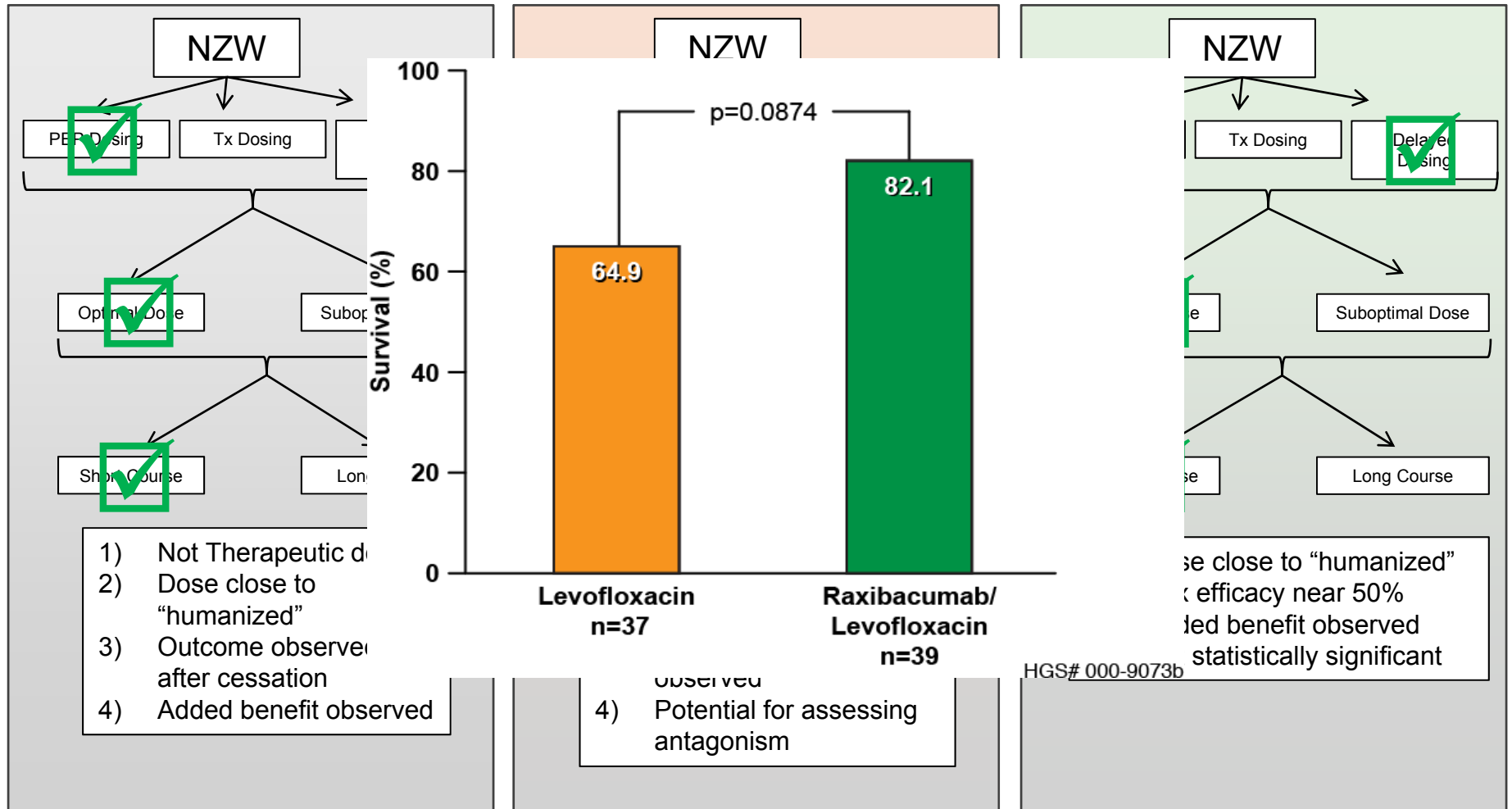
– "Humanized" dosing of antibiotic

– Statistically significant difference between outcome observed following treatment with antibiotic and antitoxin when compared to treatment with antibiotic alone

Design Considerations

– Antibiotic dose

– Antibiotic duration

– Treatment intervention time

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Clinical Relevance – Added Benefit

NZW

PEP Dosing   Tx Dosing

Optimal Dose   Subop...

Short Course   Long...

1) Not Therapeutic d...
2) Dose close to "humanized"
3) Outcome observed after cessation
4) Added benefit observed

NZW

...observed
4) Potential for assessing antagonism

NZW

Tx Dosing   Delayed Dosing

...e   Suboptimal Dose

...se   Long Course

...se close to "humanized"
...x efficacy near 50%
...ded benefit observed
...statistically significant

HGS# 000-9073b

Survival (%) chart:
- p=0.0874
- Levofloxacin n=37: 64.9
- Raxibacumab/Levofloxacin n=39: 82.1

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Summary

- Historical data was the foundation of optimizing the models utilized to assess efficacy.

- Indication dictated development pathway.

- Many iterations were required prior to "final" model

- Quality Management System is critical to successful regulatory review

- Collaborative effort was key and critical to the success of the program

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  - Facility Staff
  - Study Directors

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  - NIAID
  - BARDA
  - FDA
  - CDC
- Product Sponsors

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